WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 6 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | OCTOBER 2004

photos: Carmen Hoover

Second Anniversary: Women in Black of Olympia

Karin Kraft

This October, Women in Black of Olympia are marking the second anniversary of their existence. Initially formed in protest of the then coming war in Iraq, this group is part of an international network of women who are standing together against violence.

Women in Black originated in Israel in 1988 when a group of Israeli and Palestinian women came together to protest the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. While the exact number of local groups around the world is not know, there are at least 150 groups in 24 different countries.

Soldiers, home from Iraq, have also stopped by and thanked the women profusely.

Women in Black vigils are informal gatherings of women who all believe that violence is not an answer to conflict. They "stand in silent vigil to protest war, rape as a tool of war, ethnic cleansing and human rights abuses all over the world. We are silent because mere words cannot express the tragedy that wars and hatred bring." We welcome all women who share these views.

In the past two years, Women in Black of Olympia has received a growing support. In addition to the honks, waves, and peace signs, a teenager brought red roses one evening for the women, thanking them for their stand against violence. She shared that her late-father had been exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. Soldiers, home from Iraq, have also stopped by and thanked the women profusely. They claim that many soldiers in Iraq are very angry because they believe the leaders of our country have betrayed them. They said they just want to come home.

A call to the Women in Black sisterhood

Cynthia Collingwood

As you know, Olympia Women in Black has stood a vigil for peace and justice for the last couple of years, and a large number of women have stood in our ranks, especially during our country's invasion of Iraq. I am writing to all those of you who have stood with WIB in the past and all other women who have been sympathetic to our purpose.

We are hoping to increase our numbers in the weeks before the election to make a visible statement of the strength of Olympia's and Washington state's opposition to the war and to Bush, although we are not overtly political.

We are asking all women who have stood with Women in Black over the last two years to stand together again in the next few weeks. Come when you can, bring a woman friend if possible, and dress for the weather! Weekly participation or for the whole hour is not required. Even if it is only once, or just for half an hour, please consider making your feelings known in the powerful act of standing together in silence. In addition to making a statement, it is great to see you aren't alone and to communicate to passersby that there are many who share these feelings. What has been particularly moving for me, is the three returned Iraq vets who have stopped, thanked us, and shook our hands and left me in tears.

We stand every Friday from 5-6PM, on 4th in front of the fountain near Percival Landing, and then join hands briefly afterward.

Sisterhood is indeed, powerful!

WIB: Every Friday from 5-6 PM, on 4th in front of the fountain near Percival Landing.

Olympia Direct Action Network:

A Pledge To Resist

A new network is now forming in the Olympia area in order to challenge the militarization of our port, as well as the misuse of OUR roads, highways and air space by the dangerous terrorist network commonly known as "The U.S. Military". As a grassroots network, we will strive to act on the belief that local citizens can make better decisions for their communities than can politicians in Washington DC. By challenging the government's misuse of our community resources, we are also challenging the unjust occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as the unjust domination of our own communities by these same forces. We stand in solidarity with the people of the world, especially those living directly under the gun.

We are a decentralized network of people actively committed to resisting the way "our" government makes decisions in our name and without the best interests of the people in mind. If the word goes out that more weapons shipments are expected, be ready to join us on Percival Landing at 5pm that day. Please also keep your eyes peeled for the time that the next military ship comes to the Port of Olympia. We will disseminate information to Olympia's non-commercial community-based radio stations, and through activist e-mail lists, as well as phone trees, so get your affinity group ready for action now.

The Olympia Direct Action Network can be reached at: odan@riseup.net .

STOP THE WAR

Regardless of who wins the election

A NATIONWIDE WEEKEND OF PROTEST AGAINST THE WAR

Friday, November 5th, 7-9 AM

Hold a "STOP THE WAR" sign during morning rush-hour

No matter what happens in the Nov. 2 election, we'll still be at war, because overall, the US's militaristic foreign policy has had bipartisan support for many decades. Therefore, many peace groups nationwide are planning demonstrations and other events for the days immediately after the election. Here in the greater Olympia-Lacey-Tumwater area, plans are underway for morning commuters on November 5th to see their neighbors, co-workers, and other folks holding "Stop the War" signs at prominent intersections. The goal is to show massive public pressure to STOP THE WAR, regardless of who wins the election – and to stimulate workers to talk about the war when they arrive at the office.

How to help:

1. Identify a prominent intersection near your home or work and commit to being there with a "Stop the War" sign on the morning of Friday, November 5th, 7-9 AM (or a portion thereof).

2. Get others to join you at the intersection you choose.

3. Watch the local peace group listserves and The Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) website for information, sign-making parties, and for listings of intersections where people are needed.

4. Attend the OMJP meeting, Wednesday, October 13, 7-9 PM, at the Olympia Center to help with further planning.

This is one of Olympia's activities in a nationwide weekend of protest against the war. Organizers include the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP), Fellowship of Reconciliation, and Veteransfor Peace.

Saturday, Nov 6, 2-5 PM, "Post-Election Peace Summit" in Olympia

On the first Saturday after the election dozens of local peace folks will gather to generate ideas and energies for planning our next grassroots steps toward peace. A well-facilitated process and lots of small group interaction and creativity will make the day productive and sow the seeds for a variety of strategically smart activities. Mark your calendar now for 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. and watch for publicity about location and other details. This is one of Olympia's activities in a nationwide weekend of protest against the war. Organizers include the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) Fellowship of Reconciliation, and Veterans for Peace. Info: Larry Mosqueda 867-6513 lmosqueda@comcast.net, and the OMJP website, www.omjp.org

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer operated progressive community newspaper. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to ***wip@zhonka.net*** or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool:

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Dave Campbell	Hali Panneton
Chelsea Chase	Jeff Sowers
Sebastian Chase	Sylvia Smith
Renee Cruickshank	Pat Tassoni
Megan Davis	Drew Hendricks
Teresa Jennings	David Lavender
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Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

On the cover: Eric Chase (center), longtime Olympian at an anti-war event in March of 2004 at the state capitol.

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

October 22nd

PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507
wip@zhonka.net * www.olywa.net/wip

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Send to: Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507

Announcements, etc.

Heartsparkle Players
Playback Theatre 2004-2005 Season

Playback Theatre is a spontaneous collaboration between performers and audience. People tell moments from their lives, then watch them re-created with movement, music and dialogue.

Each month we invite a guest artist, community organization, and arts program or social service agency to be a part of our performance. Through this collaboration we acknowledge and honor the work individuals and organizations do in our community.

Season Opener: Stories of Freedom in collaboration with the International Trauma Treatment Program whose mission is to facilitate the recovery of trauma survivors and who currently has two student practitioners from Tibet.

Friday, October 8 at 7:30 p.m.
Location: Traditions Cafe
Cost: Suggested donation $5.00 to $10.00 (No one is turned away)
Mark your calendars for these upcoming performance dates:
(Collaborators to be announced)
November 12,
December 10
January 14,
February 11
March 11,
April 8,
May 13

Contact: Debe Edden, Artistic Director
(360) 943-6772 or
debek@olywa.net
www.heartsparkle.org

Stop the Femicide in the Maquiladoras:
International Caravan for Justice in Juarez and Chihuahua in Olympia

October 19, 2004
7 PM TRADITIONS FAIR TRADE CAFÉ
300 5th Ave. downtown

Come to learn about the issue and hear from the mother of one of the victims

Over 380 young women workers working in the maquiladora sector - sweatshops that produce for export with 90% destined for the United States, in the cities of Chihuahua and Juarez, near the US-Mexico border, have been killed. Despite the horrific nature of these crimes, authorities at all levels exhibit indifference, and there is strong evidence that some officials may be involved. Impunity and corruption has permitted the criminals, whoever they are, to continue committing these acts, knowing there will be no consequences.

The caravan stop will feature personal testimony by Mrs. Ramona Morales, the mother of Silvia Elena Rivera Morales, a young woman killed in 1995.

For more info call: (360) 867-6055

Gardening With Mushrooms

Gardening with plants is as common as corn but what about gardening with gourmet and medicinal mushrooms? You can even use these mushroom cultivation techniques to help clean toxic waste and restore damaged environments. This workshop will cover low-tech outdoor mushroom cultivation techniques and MycoRestoration— the use of fungi to repair damaged ecosystems.

When: Saturday, October 2nd 10:00am-3:00pm
Where: Demeter's Permaculture Garden at the Evergreen State College Organic Farm
Price: $50 per person plus limited work trades. Includes inoculated mushroom log.
Space is limited so sign up soon!
Contact info to register:
Email: deap@riseup.net Phone (360) 867-6493

Cartoonist and creator of "Generalissimo el Busho"

Ted Rall is coming to Olympia
Sunday, October 17, 2004,
2 PM at the Plenty Restaurant

Known for his caustic humor, prolificacy and unflinching take on current topics, Rall writes a weekly op-ed column and has authored four prose and graphic books. Ted Rall's cartoons appear in more than 140 publications, including the Philadelphia Daily News, Aspen Times, Hartford Advocate, Newark Star-Ledger, Los Angeles Times, Wilmington News-Journal, San Diego Reader, Village Voice, Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News, Las Vegas Review Journal, Washington City Paper, Tucson Weekly, Sacramento News & Review, San Jose Mercury-News, Lexington Herald-Leader and New York Times.

Courtesy of Danger Room Comics 360-705-3050

"Another World is Possible" – The First Northwest Social Forum in Seattle

When: Thursday – Sunday, October 14 – 17, 2004
Hours: Thursday – Special Event at Town Hall - 7 pm
Registration
Forum
Friday, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Times to be announced.
Saturday, 8 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Sunday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Where: Seattle Center, 305 Harrison Street, Seattle Center, Northwest Rooms, Center House and nearby venues
Cost: Events and exhibits in Center House are free.
Weekend admission (Friday – Sunday) ranges between $10 - $25; early registration and group discounts are available, as are some scholarships.
Note: Thursday night's panel at Town Hall is ticketed separately.
Tickets: Available online at www.brownpapertickets.com

For more information, visit www.nwsocialforum.org. To purchase tickets, inquire about scholarships, or to get involved, send e-mail to info@nwsocialforum.org or call 206-448-7348, ext. 342. Scholarships may be made available to those who otherwise would be unable to attend.

OCTOBER 2004

TIM EYMAN ANTI-INDIAN INITIATIVE 892 AND HIS CALVARY

Eyman has teamed up with the casino industry to put on the ballot an initiative to legalize electronic slot machines in non-tribal casinos as well as taverns, bowling alleys, and restaurants. This would likely lead to the doubling of electric slots in Washington state and devastate tribal economies. The following have provided two-thirds of the $689,767 campaign funds raised.

Michels Development LLC -- WA company that operates four casinos	**$134,421**
Great Canadian Gambling Corp -- operates four WA casinos	**$110,000**
Freddie's Associates -- WA company that operates four casinos	**$50,000**
Royal Casino (Everett)	**$55,000**
Tim and Michael Iszely -- owners of minicasino corporations	**$80,000**

(five of the Iszely brothers' companies are delinquent in state taxes for a total of over $800,000)

This is a death by a thousand cuts. This proposal gives the non-Indian casinos the potential to have thousands of establishments. We are limited to 22.

Ron Allen, chairman of WA Indian Gaming Assoc

Sources: *Seattle P-I*; KOMO; *Seattle Weekly*; *Bellingham Herald*; *Columbian*; WA Dept of Revenue; WA Public Disclosure Commission

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Tribal gaming is subject to more regulation and security controls than any other type of gambling in the U.S. Tribal gaming is regulated by federal, tribal and state governments. Federal law requires special oversight of tribal gaming by the National Indian Gaming Commission and the Bureau of Indian Affairs...				**1** **2002**: Bush vows to keep UN weapon inspectors out of Iraq **2003**: Schwarzenegger accused of groping	**2** **1963**: US predicts Viet Nam victory by 1965 **2003**: US soldiers killed/40 wounded each week in Iraq
3 **1945**: Truman suggests an A-bomb ban with the US as monitor **1968**: Mexican troops fire on students	**4** **2003**: Schwarzenegger claims sexual harassment allegations; LA Times reports 4 more have come forward	**5** **2003**: Amnesty International claims Afghan women's lives have improved little since overthrow of Taliban	**6** **1981**: Sadat assassinated in Egypt **2002**: 5,000 in Seattle protest US foreign policy	**7** **2000**: UN condemns Sharon's provocative visit to Jerusalem shrine **2003**: Schwarzenegger wins CA governor race	**8** **2003**: Israel puts into place an open-ended lockdown of all Palestinian towns during the Jewish holidays	**9** **2003**: Army officials say Yee will be charged with violating military regulations, but no spy charges
10 **2003**: US raids remote sheepherding village in Iraqi desert and detain nearly all the men, ages from 13 - 81	**11** **2002**: Carter given Nobel Peace Prize **2002**: Bush pledges to help Afghanistan to "its democratic future"	**12** **1952**: Chicago: 34 leading scientists attack US anti-Communist visa policy as peril to science	**13** **2003**: Catholic priest says Capt Yee chastised guards who showed disrespect to Guantanamo prisoners	**14** **2001**: Study reveals WA families must earn more than twice minimum to afford a two-bedroom apt	**15** **2002**: Illinois begins marathon series of clemency hearings for almost all prisoners on death row	**16** **1962** Brazil seizes US-owned phone system **1970**: 25 indicted in Kent State shootings; none are Nat'l Guard
17 **1979**: Nicaragua nationalizes insurance companies **1980**: Mt. St. Helens erupts3 Xs in 24 hours	**18** **2001**: US has ground forces in Afghanistan **2002**: Boeing unveils its new stealth aircraft, the "Bird of Prey"	**19** **2002**: Sheriff Gary Edward's supporters run full-page ad in The Big "0" attacking Glenn Quantz	**20** **2003**: White House announces federal deficit climbed to $374.2 billion in 2003 up from $158 billion in 2002	**21** **2003**: Hospital, following order from FL Governor Jeb Bush, reinserts feeding tube in comatose woman	**22** **1954**: Ike okays training of S Vietnam army **2002**: AMA study: risk of dying after surgery rises w/ fewer nurses	**23** **2003**: Feds raid Wal-Mart headquarters and stores across the nation, and arrest 300 illegal workers
24 **2003**: US-backed Iraqi police chief slayed **2003**: Israel releases map of planned security barrier for 1st time	**25** **2003**: Masked Israeli troops raid two Palestinian hospitals and arrest two alleged militants	**26** **2001**: Anthrax not linked to bin Laden, probably US extremist **2003**: Several wildfires merge in southern CA	**27** **2003**: Suicide bombers in Iraq strike Red Cross headquarters, 3 police stations killing 36, wounding 200+	**28** **2003**: 10s of 1000s flee wildfire in CA **2003**: Olympia City Council denounces the Patriot Act	**29** **2002**: President Bush signs "Help America Vote Act" legislation to replace punch card voting systems	**30** **1954**: Sweden adopts nat'l health care system **1965**: US jets bomb friendly Vietnamese village, killing 48
31 **2003**: 12 million US families worried they couldn't afford food in 2002; 32% of them experienced going hungry	**Under federal law, tribal governments can [only] conduct gaming on tribal lands to generate revenue for essential services and to promote tribal welfare: improve education, health care, child care, housing, senior programs, law enforcement, courts and natural resource management on reservations.** **The Washington Coalition for Tribal Self-Reliance**					

Is Zionism compatible with Palestinian solidarity?

A local self-identified Jewish Zionist moderate weighs in

by Sherri Shulman

Since reading Phan Nguyen's article (Kiss me, I hate Sharon) in Works in Progress, Vol. 14, No. 11, p. 1, 8-9, March 2004 I have been troubled by the glib interpretation he presents of Jewish individuals in the Palestinian Solidarity movement who don't meet his criteria for progressive activists. Mr. Nguyen is not Jewish yet he thinks it is legitimate to tell us what we should feel and think as Jews. He thinks that he may tell us how we should act and what it should mean to be a Jewish progressive. He thinks he understands the Jewish experience well enough to dictate what our own Jewish interpretations should be. Although I don't claim to know his mind, since Mr. Nguyen believes that he knows my mind (in his article he makes a number of claims about the thoughts, motivations, and goals of the 'Jewish Zionist moderate'), I'll venture what seems to me to be reasonable guesses based on his words. In case there's any doubt, I am what he would categorize as a Jewish Zionist moderate.

Mr. Nguyen's article skirts some difficult issues that are central to the discussion. My understanding of his words is that he sees the Palestinian solidarity movement as similar to the civil rights movement in the US. (He says "The moderate Jews, like King's moderate whites, are a stumbling block in the struggle for a free Palestine.") This allows him to claim the same kind of moral clarity and to use analogies drawn from that conflict. Using this as the lens with which to view the 'progressive' nature of 'Jewish Zionist moderates', he feels entitled to dispute not only our presence in the Palestinian movement but our motivations (we do not have the same kind of moral commitment to the Palestinian cause because 'For the Jewish moderate, the occupation must end not out of true concern for Palestinian life and justice, but rather because it makes Israel look bad, and too many Arabs living in Israel pose a "demographic threat."')

Mr. Nguyen goes on to say that

"From their imagined progressive pedestal, they feel they have the proper qualifications to denounce the extreme leftists and to bring the Palestine - Israel issue into proper perspective, while at the same time believing that they are immune to charges of being right-wing. Quite often it is the perception that the left is too anti-Israel, hence anti-Semitic, that inspires them to become actively involved in the conflict. They hope to co-opt the Palestinian solidarity movement and tone down the level of criticism hurled against the Jewish state. Indeed only they know how to talk about Israel."

The only Jews that Mr. Nguyen will welcome into the Palestinian solidarity movement are those for whom a Jewish state is not a central concern (or possibly of any concern). In his eyes, I gather, we cannot be both pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian. We cannot see it as a collective tragedy that on both sides, for both nationalisms, we have such difficulty coming to a means to both pursue peace and our own national identities. Indeed, the only reason for the Jewish moderate to be in the movement, according to Mr. Nguyen, is the self-serving aim to contaminate the purity of the progressive left in its search for justice for the Palestinian people.

Denying the legitimacy of Jewish concerns about Israel or the connection of Zionism to Judaism is at the core of Mr. Nguyen's rhetoric. That is the fundamental problem Mr. Nguyen has with 'Jewish Zionist moderates'. By his understanding, in order to be a true progressive, in order to truly work for the Palestinian cause, one must jettison one's Zionist beliefs, much as in the civil rights movement, in order to work for a truly non-racist society one had to jettison one's own racist beliefs. Since that is the fundamental issue, let's discuss that. Let's clear the air and discuss the nature of the Jewish state, the nature of Zionism, the relationship of a Jewish state to a liberal democracy and the protection of non-Jewish citizens within that state. Let's talk about the history of Palestinian nationalism and Jewish nationalism, why they are in conflict, how the two national narratives can be made to coexist. Let's discuss the basis for comparing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the American civil rights movement. Let's talk about the claim that Zionism is racism.

In the past year I have been told a number of times (by several members of the progressive left) that Judaism and Zionism are unconnected. Although I don't want to over-generalize, it seems that the members of the progressive left are not interested in hearing what Jews themselves might say about their own identity. Mr. Nguyen sees the interest that Jews have in Israel as just a side-effect of our own 'Jewish insecurity' and latent unacknowledged racism. His attitude can only be the consequence of ignorance. Zionism emerged as a response to two interrelated problems: The persecution of the Jews on the one hand, and their widespread assimilation on the other. While there continues to be debate in the Jewish community about the meaning of Zionism to Judaism, the role of the state, the relationship of Israel to the surrounding Arab communities, and the relationship of the Jewish diaspora to Israel, I know of no Jews who would say that the debate itself has no meaning or that Zionism itself arose out of anything but the Jewish experience.

[Perhaps] Mr. Nguyen ... only speaks out against the Jewish Zionist moderates because he wants to protect the progressive left from charges of anti-Semitism.

Continuing Mr. Nguyen's parallel with the civil rights movement, the white clergy were an impediment to the civil rights movement because they were willing to work for civil rights but not at the cost of their own privilege. For this analogy to work in the case of Jewish Zionist moderates, those who support Israel must be similarly unwilling to cede some part of their own privilege in a context where there is a similar requirement to provide uniform rights. So we should ask the question: is it a similar requirement? In the case of the civil rights movement, we were one nation composed of two kinds of citizens with unequal privileges. However, in Israel and Palestine we do not have one nation with two kinds of citizens and unequal privileges. We have two nationalities, each of which will determine what kind of privileges their own citizens have and how to protect those privileges. We should also ask the question: are Jewish Zionist moderates unwilling to cede some part of their own privilege? Well, in this case privilege must be viewed as territory and sovereignty. As Mr. Nguyen himself notes, Jewish Zionist moderates "think the settlements should go" and believe "the occupation must end". It doesn't seem the civil rights movement analogy is very appropriate after all. There is no inconsistency in supporting both a Jewish Israeli state and a Palestinian state: the position of the Jewish Zionist moderate.

I can't help but think that in some sense Mr. Nguyen (and others of the same mind) would like to purify the Palestinian solidarity movement.

In The Jews' Right to Statehood: A Defense Ruth Gavison says (Ruth Gavison holds the Haim H. Cohn Chair in Human Rights in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and is a senior fellow at the Israel Democracy Institute. The article was published in Azure, Volume 15, Summer 5763/2003 and may be found at http://www.azure.org.il/15-gavison.html)

"For now, Israel is the state of the Jewish people. In the present circumstances it is justified in being so, and I hope that it will take the necessary steps to preserve this status in the future. This is no small aspiration: The history of the land of Israel is strewn with the remains of many peoples and cultures. Israel's Jewish majority need not apologize for seeking to retain the Jewish identity of the state, but it must recognize the rights of Palestinians living between the Mediterranean and the Jordan. This includes their right to express their own unique identity both through an independent state of their own alongside Israel, and as a minority within the Jewish state. This issue cannot be wished away; it must be addressed in a way that is both effective and moral. "

I'll take the above to be the manifesto of the Jewish Zionist moderate.

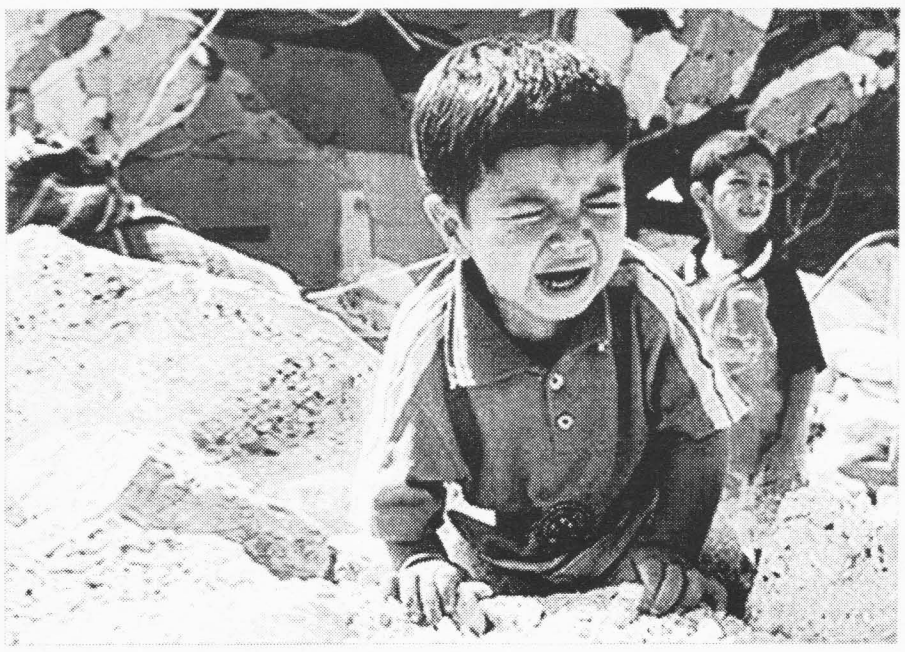
In his article Mr. Nguyen impugns the Jewish Zionist moderates, implying that their criticism of the progressive left is self-serving and that their claim of insight into the nature of Israel is unjustified. He clearly does not believe in either the sincerity of the Jewish Zionist moderate or the possibility that their critiques can be right. Not only are we wrong in our beliefs but we are wrong to believe that we are entitled to those beliefs (after all, it's just 'Jewish insecurity'!). But ... isn't this the same for Mr. Nguyen? Mr. Nguyen imagines that only he (or other similarly committed individuals in the Palestinian solidarity movement) understands the true moral nature of the conflict. Only he (or other similarly committed individuals) understands what it means to be a true progressive activist. Only he has the proper perspective on Israel and Palestine. If it is wrong for the Jewish Zionist moderates to hold such exclusionary beliefs (if in fact they do), is it not wrong for Mr. Nguyen? I could interpret his words as evidence that he only speaks out against the Jewish Zionist moderates because he wants to protect the progressive left (as a movement) from charges of anti-Semitism.

Lastly, Mr. Nguyen says:

"The goal of any progressive movement is not to make anyone feel better about their insecurities, and my role is not to serve any insecure members of an ethnic or religious group. ... Issues of race and identity are indeed uncomfortable subjects, but that is all the more reason to bring it out in the open, rather than keeping it quiet, as has been encouraged in the Olympia community. When activists are too quick to pander to Jewish insecurities, it does no one any service."

I can't begin to say how offensive I find the above. Note this doesn't mean that I think it can't be said. I'm not sure of the definition of "Jewish insecurities" that Mr. Nguyen has in mind. His words suggest that whatever Mr. Nguyen believes Jewish insecurities to be, they are in the Jewish mind alone. He suggests

*(**Zionism** - continued on page 15)*



Children amid the rubble of a demolished home in Palestine.

Palestinian solidarity is about human rights and reality on the ground -- not abstract labels and identity issues

by Phan Nguyen

It is unfortunate, or perhaps convenient, that Shulman waited so long to submit her letter, as many readers will not have my original article to judge her graphology. Nevertheless her interpretation of my article is so exotic that I feel like I am defending myself against charges of being a Martian, with the sole evidence being a cookie recipe.

Rather than address my arguments, she has opted to read between the lines and accuse me of thinking things that I have neither expressed publicly nor thought privately. Consequently I am compelled not so much to defend my words but to deny Shulman's analysis of my character.

Equally disheartening is that this public exchange was avoidable. When I learned of Shulman's complaints six months ago, I invited her twice for a one-on-one discussion, but she refused, claiming that she had no time — and this was despite working in the same institution as I. Instead she has preferred to attack me publicly, first through an e-mail distribution list and now, half a year later, through a letter to *Works in Progress*.*

Very well. There is some utility in this public exchange, as her baffling interpretation of my article supports my argument (in that same article) that some "concerned" Jews are quick to project their fears onto the words of Palestine solidarity activists, and that frank discussions of race and identity can prevent such gross misunderstandings in the future, if we are willing.

Sherri Shulman bases many of her criticisms on the assumption that I think Zionism and Judaism are unrelated. That's the "core of Mr. Nguyen's rhetoric." Her proof: I didn't write about any relationship.

I didn't write about it because it was beyond the topic, not because it was irrelevant or unrelated. But this is enough for Shulman to label me ignorant and then waste several column inches drawing conclusions about me based on a single false assumption.

I do see Zionism as an important component of mainstream Jewish identity, but how each individual relates to Zionism and interprets it is a personal issue. Zionism is not an absolute ideology. Martin Buber's Zionism differend from Ze'ev Jabotinsky's Zionism. Zionism evolved from a fringe movement in the 19th century to the Jewish status quo in the present, and it is still evolving.

Likewise I understand that many Jews are not Zionist, and that doesn't make them any less Jewish. It's a personal issue. It is perfectly legitimate for Jews to be anti-Zionist, and I would never judge anyone to be a "good Jew" or a "bad Jew."

All of this is beyond the point. Jewish identity is up to the Jews. I would love to talk to Shulman about identity issues, but those are abstractions that say little about the realities on the ground in Israel and Palestine. Let's look at the reality: Is it part of Jewish identity to crop-dust the Bedouins in the Negev in order to force them into reservations? If so, then I'm against it. Is it Zionism that institutes the policies intended to "thin out" the Palestinian population of Jerusalem? Then I'm against that, too. I am against these current Israeli policies not because they're "Zionist," but because they're wrong.

I am less interested in what Zionism means—because it means different things to different people—and more interested in what is being done to people in its name.

Shulman claims that I will only "welcome" Jews "for whom a Jewish state is not a central concern." Actually I hope that most Jews who are concerned about Israel will want to speak out against what Israel is doing in their names, rather than attack those who are already speaking out.

Shulman faults me for criticizing Jewish Zionist moderates, but rather than defend the *actions* of those whom I criticized, she prefers to defend the *label* of "Jewish Zionist moderates."

I hope that most Jews who are concerned about Israel will want to speak out against whatIsrael is doing in their names, rather than attack those who are already speaking out.

Shulman has a different definition of a Jewish Zionist moderate than I do, so she defends the people that she would classify under that category, even declaring a manifesto for the label. That's fine. But such people are not necessarily those I mentioned in my article, whom I had also labeled Jewish Zionist moderates. I used that term to reflect how they see themselves, but any term would do.

In fact I only used that term once in my article, while referring to them elsewhere as "Jewish moderates" or simply "moderates." Shulman is so obsessed with the label that she employs it eighteen times in her letter. She is welcome to claim the label, but it still does not address my original complaint, which is this: Some Jews—however you want to label them—see their "moderate" views on the Palestine-Israel conflict as a sign of progressive, balanced, and even-handed thinking, and they brand anyone more progressive as an extremist. Thus they feel they have the authority to dictate to the rest of us the proper ways to talk about Israel.

Is it any wonder that most people who call for moderation, for "even-handedness" and "balance," are those who benefit the most from the status quo?

Ironically, Shulman accuses me of telling Jews how they should think and act, when my original point was that moderate Jews have no greater authority to tell progressives how to criticize Israel than anyone else has.

Moderation is not inherently a virtue, nor is it objective and fair. When you place yourself between two competing sides, you automatically favor the more powerful side. In the Palestine–Israel conflict, you have one side that is the occupier, while the other side is the occupied. One has a state, the other is yearning for a state. One has total military supremacy, the other has militants who know they will die fighting. One has the backing of the world's only superpower and also controls the land, water, airspace, borders, and freedom of movement. Thus any appearance of balance is contrived. If you treat both sides as equals, they still won't be equal.

Shulman urges us to "see it [the Palestine–Israel conflict] as a collective tragedy...on both sides." Sure, it's a tragedy for both sides, but one side still controls the status quo, and that side still benefits at the other's expense, even if both are hurting. If the "cycle of violence" were to stop today, we would not see equality. One side would be free to go to work, to do their shopping, and to enjoy leisure time. The other side would still be deprived of movement, deprived of farmland, deprived of water, and deprived of a homeland.

Is it any wonder that most people who call for moderation, for "even-handedness" and "balance," are those who benefit the most from the status quo?

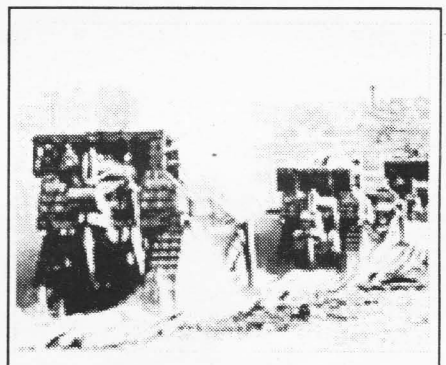
In my original article, I made an analogy to the moderate white clergy of Alabama who claimed sympathy with the civil rights movement but who accused Martin Luther King—then detained in a Birmingham jail—of being an "outsider . . . incit[ing] hatred and violence" by his "extreme" actions against racial segregation. The white clergy insisted that moderation was the key to voicing one's concerns.

Shulman negates this analogy by imposing artificial conditions on it (see her eighth paragraph). She translates the analogy into a convoluted algebraic expression that goes well beyond the original context and into abstractions about nationalism and statehood. In the process she confuses the kind of privilege that American Jews gain from Israel.

Fortunately for all the moderates who are clamoring to join the Divest From Israel campaign, I am not the Leftist doorkeeper.

I'm sure Shulman would agree that for many Diaspora Jews, personal feelings of security are connected to both the security of Israel and its continued existence as a state for the Jews. The Israeli government ensures both requirements by keeping the indigenous Palestinians in their place. Thus many American Jews have the privilege of feeling secure at the cost of another people — a people who were not responsible for the legacy of European and Christian antisemitism that initially scarred the Jewish people.

Shulman accuses me of dismissing



Bulldozers in Gaza.

Zionist arguments as mere Jewish insecurities. To support her case, she puts words in my mouth: "After all, it's just 'Jewish insecurity!'"

Shulman ignores the concrete examples of Jewish insecurity in my article. I discussed Jewish insecurities in the context of Jews describing the *insecure feelings* that they get from hearing (usually not witnessing first-hand) about Palestine solidarity activism or when they are confronted with criticism of Israeli actions against Palestinians. In such cases they are unable to cite anything specifically antisemitic, but they *feel* threatened nevertheless.

All social groups have their insecurities, and Jews are no exception. If we acknowledge that the Jews have a long history of being persecuted, culminating in the Holocaust, and that this has scarred the Jewish psyche, leaving many Jews traumatized and sensitive that it could happen again — if we are to accept this as true, then we must accept that this is part of Jewish insecurity.

This insecurity explains the paradox of feeling vulnerable even when acting invincible, which is what Amos Oz meant when he wrote about "the Israeli who wins battles by day and dreams of Auschwitz by night." This is what Levi Eshkol meant when he referred to Israel as *Shimshon der nebechdikker*, "Samson the wimp." Even after Israel decisively won the June 1967 War, doubling their territory in six days, there was a popular Hebrew song that reiterated the slogan *ha'olam kulo negdainu*, "the whole world is against us."

Certainly Israeli politicians manipulate Jewish insecurities, as when Menachem Begin justified laying siege to Beirut by claiming that Israel had Hitler (Arafat) in his bunker. Right-wing settlers resist evacuation by claiming that it amounts to *Judenrein*, the Nazi policy of excluding Jews. And recently Ariel Sharon called on French Jews to make aliyah immediately in order to escape persecution. (More likely he wants to increase Jewish immigration in order to counter the higher Palestinian birthrate in Israel.)

Is talking about Jewish feelings a taboo? Should we leave it to the right-wing demagogues?

Nowhere did I claim that Jewish insecurities were invalid. If someone feels insecure, then that's a valid feeling. Instead, I argued that the Jewish comfort level should not be the standard to measure how far activists can work for Palestinian human rights. It should not be used to demarcate the limits of discourse.

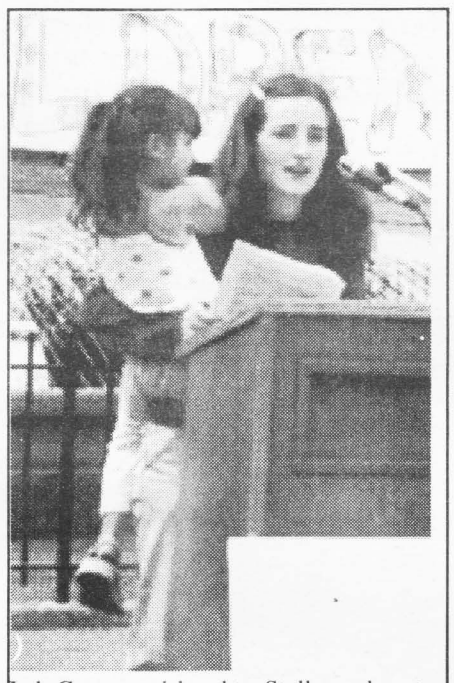
Shulman exaggerates this when she claims that she must prove that her

(***Solidarity*** - *continued on page 15*)

Suspected of Living Above their Means

by Monica Peabody

On August 23rd, members of WROC, the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, and our allies, delivered a SLAM letter to Governor Locke. The letter was patterned after letters DHSH caseworkers send to parents receiving welfare to tell them they are "Suspected of Living Above Their Means." A welfare grant is 40% of



Jade Crown and daughter Stella read quotes from parents mistreatd in welfare offices across Washington State.

the Federal Poverty Level, or $440 a month for a mother with one child. The particular letter we copied said, "The state requires you explain in writing by itemization and statement how you meet expenses of rent $300 utilities $100+ on a $440 grant. Leaving less than $50 to cover non food items, the expenses of a teen aged son, car insurance, etc, mentions only a few. You also claim to be able to feed a teenager on $238 food stamps. If you do not provide this information within the specified time period, the Department may stop your benefits."

Anyone who spends any time with welfare mamas knows we are a resourceful bunch, as this parent's reply to her caseworker indicates. "Obviously, this does not add-up. Often I cannot pay the full amount of rent. So I owe rent and the amount grows each month. I am requesting additional requirements for help with rent. We go without many unnecessary items such as mouthwash, haircuts and kleenex, new clothes. Therefore, I am requesting support services for help with clothing, liability insurance and ongoing gas expenses for work search. I go fishing and catch and eat fish to help our grocery budget, as well as having a small garden for greens. We also make occasional visits to the food bank. When we get really short, my son might go stay overnight with a friend. I have been extremely honest and cooperative with you. I don't understand shy you must create this extra paperwork, which takes time away from my work search and also creates unneeded stress. Please contact me as soon as possible to respond to my requests for additional requirements and support services. (She was not contacted about her requests, but applied for a fair hearing and received them.)

Governor Locke's slam letter informed him we needed information about his current circumstances so we can decide if he is still eligible for state leadership, budgetary input, state payroll and state funded medical benefits. We also asked him to explain in writing by itemization and statement how he meets expenses of corporate welfare, Boeing tax breaks, business subsidies, etc, mentions only a few, leaving less than necessary to cover affordable healthcare, housing, food and cash assistance for low-income families. He also claims to be able to balance the budget (on the backs of the poor) while maintaining the most regressive tax system in the nation. We asked for verification that existing employment opportunities offer a living wage and to allow welfare recipients to attend college or university. We asked Governor Locke to read, sign and return the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25, which says "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or othe lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond control. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance."

Although DSHS policy makers denied using tactics like SLAM letters, caseworker contests and other motivational incentives to push parents and their children off the welfare roles, WROC had obtained documents through the Freedom of Information Act, showing they did just that. Deb Bingaman, Assistant Secretary of DSHS Financial Services, said such behavior "would be inappropriate and that she believes it is very important that all DSHS clients are treated with respect." Governor Locke publicized an executive order on August 26th that stated, "Government employees must be seen to serve the public with integrity, respect, courtesy, and a commitment to solving problems" and that "DSHS employees shall communicate in a courteous and professional manner with customers making a complaint."

Too little, too late. We are glad that Governor Locke's term as Governor is ending and we expect more awareness, compassion and good leadership from our next governor. We also expect DSHS caseworkers to follow Washington state laws and behave professionally. If you see this not happening, contact WROC (360)352-9716 or wrocoly@wroc.org. If you are outside the Olympia calling area, you can reach our Seattle office toll free at 1-877-330-3063.

Join our Wednesday afternoon volunteer meetings at the WROC office in the Payne Room of the First Christian Church in downtown Olympia at 701 Franklin Street SE. There are many ways to get involved. This legislative session we hope to raise the welfare grant, which has not increased since 1993, and remove barriers to welfare recipients going to college. We want to start a welfare witness program, we have fundraising needs, and daily advocacy and outreach. We provide internships and can be a community job site. Help us raise awareness around poverty issues so we can live in a state with better priorities.

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition , 701 Franklin Street SE , Olympia, WA 98501, 360-352-9716

Olympia Food Co-op

The Olympia Food Co-op

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WROC Night Out

WROC Night Out is the first Monday of every month at 5:30 at the First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE. Bring a potluck item. Children are welcome, we have on site childcare. WROC, the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, is a grassroots group of low income parents whose mission is to affect social and economic justice by empowering and educating our low income members and to improve welfare policy locally and nationally.

Monday, October 4th, Road Trip to Seattle! To attend:
A discussion with New York Times reporter, **Jason DeParle,** of his new book, American Dream: Three Women, Ten Kids, and a Nation's Drive to End Welfare. At 7:30 p.m. at the Wyckoff Auditorium in the Engineering Building on Seattle University Campus.
Let us know if you can come, if you can drive or need a ride, and we'll carpool from the church - 352-9716 or wrocoly@wroc.org
(This is different from what's on your flier if you are lucky enough to be on our mailing list, which will be postponed until November).
Monday, November 1st, Roundtable Discussion on the candidates and issues the day before Election Day. Come and share what you know and listen to others.

Monica Peabody
Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition
701 Franklin Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501
360-352-9716

Members of the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, WROC, carry a SLAM letter to Governor Locke.

Homless issues are often forgotten

by Rob Ross

At this time of year, as the leaves begin to turn from vibrant greens to more brilliant, fitful hues and the weather turns colder, it is important to remember those less fortunate, the homeless, who inhabit the boundaries between society and obscurity. For them life is a constant struggle against a variety of challenges, not the least of which is an indifferent, often hostile society. Aside from the stigma of being homeless, there is the challenge of finding food and shelter in the winter months. Without the basic amenities many of us take for granted, life on the street can be difficult and often fatal.

Olympia's homeless population fluctuates between seasons, with more people living on the streets during the spring and summer months. Many simply migrate to sunnier climes as the weather turns colder, but a substantial number make the streets of Olympia their "home." Recent efforts to "privatize" public spaces and attempts to pass a No-Panhandling ordinance are making life harder for the homeless, and while some members of the City Council and the Olympia Downtown Association (ODA) strongly disapprove of the homeless, downtown is home to a substantial population of people with no option left to them but the streets. Living on the streets can be difficult, especially during the winter. As the rainy season sets in, Olympia's homeless population will try to stay warm and dry any way they can. Olympia boasts one of the most diverse communities in the state with a substantial progressive element, but much of the needed attention goes towards larger geo-political and environmental issues, while homeless issues are often forgotten. It is comforting to know that there are those who make the effort to ease the burden of the poor and homeless here, as evidenced by the existence of Bread & Roses, Food Not Bombs and EGYHOP (Emma Goldman Youth & Homeless Outreach Program).

As fall begins, EGYHOP, a totally volunteer run, non-profit project of Media Island International operating on the barest of shoe-string budgets, faces the difficult task of providing blankets and sleeping bags for the homeless. Most of their budget is devoted to purchasing these basic amenities, as well as socks, long-sleeved shirts, rain gear and medical supplies to pass out to the homeless. Frequently, they don't have enough blankets (one of their most coveted items) to pass out to everyone who needs them; donations are much appreciated. Clean items only, please! *If you would like to volunteer or help out in any way, just look for any of the EGYHOP volunteers riding around downtown, or you can e-mail Long Hair David at blackkityy@comcast.net.*

WILL SUBMIT TO HAVING MY
LABOR EXPLOITED FOR OTHERS'
PROFIT, TO SUBORDINATING MY
NEED FOR UNCONTAMINATED
AIR AND WATER TO THE
IMPERATIVES OF BIG BUSINESS,
AND TO ERING OUT A MARGINAL
AND DESPERATE EXISTENCE
WITHOUT DISSENT, FOR FOOD.

The health of a community does not reside solely in its prosperity, but also in the interrelations of the divergent groups that make up the whole. As such, it is important to remember those who are less fortunate, remember that they are human beings with hopes and dreams and fears like all of us. And remember the lines inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty: "*Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door.*"

Billionaires are doing fine

by Allotta Cash

Ruth Lipow celebrates global warming.

Forbes magazine announced today that there are more billionaires in our great country than ever before. Last year there were only 262, this year 313. We billionaires are very proud, but we could not have achieved such unprecedented growth without our commander in chief, George W. Bush. That is why on September 2nd, we gathered at the Republican picnic in Tumwater to join with the common people to cheer on our man, George W, as he made his speech to the Republican Convention. Mary A. Richman, Dee Forestation and Seymour Benjamins attended, to name a few. So that we could get across our message in the "Olympia Way," we held signs, while sipping champagne. Global Warming = Better Tans, How Many Species Do We Need? Don't Change Horsemen Mid Apocolypse, and Come On, Like You've Never Lied. We chanted "Four More Wars" and "Reappoint Bush." If you would like to join our group, go to www.billionairesforbush.com.

Alice Zillah advocates for corporations.

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Buildings through out New York had anti-war and anti-Bush signs in them, like this building directly across the street from Ground Zero.

Olympia activist Nina Triffelman joins her mother Gloria on the streets of New York.

Olympians protest the RNC

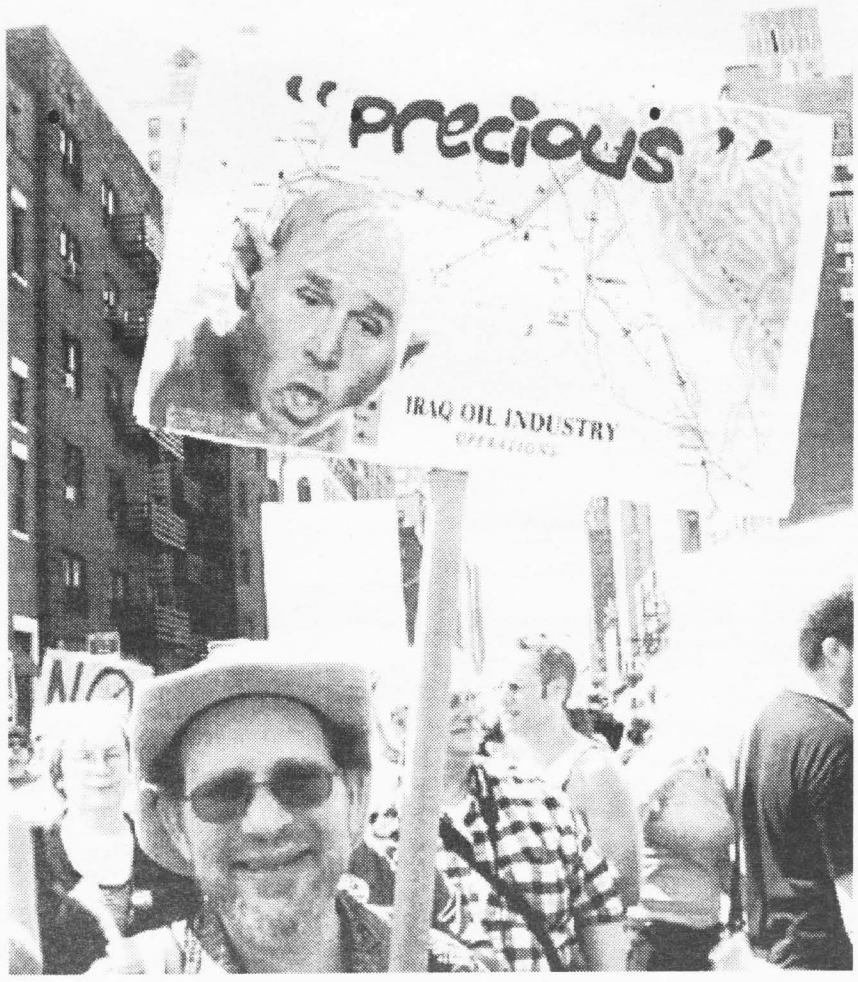
by Anna Schlecht

At least 40 Olympia area activists were part of the week of protests against the Republican National Convention this past August. They joined hundreds of thousands of people who mobilized to oppose everything the Republican party stands for - the war in Iraq, the loss of jobs and labor rights, women's right to choose and many other issues. After extensive coverage of Sunday's big march past the convention site at Madison Square Gardens, activists were largely ignored by the mainstream press for the rest of the week during many other spirited marches and actions. Cheered on by native New Yorkers who are overwhelmingly anti-Bush, the protests provided a strong counterpoint to the RNC's attack on human rights and social justice. On this page are a few snap shots from the streets.

Photos courtesy of Anna

Not an occasion for mincing words.

Activists constructed nearly 1,000 flag drapped coffins to carry in the march, representing the number of US Soldiers killed in Iraq.



There were many signs protesting the RNC, reflecting the immense creativity of the hundreds of thousands of activists.

Patriot Act Watch – October 2004

Patriot Act II Returns; Hamdi to be Released

Collated by Howard Rosenfeld

In a story widely reported (this from the Boston Globe) . . .

"Yaser Esam Hamdi, the US citizen and "enemy combatant" whose imprisonment without charges by the Bush administration for nearly three years led to a historic Supreme Court decision this summer, will be freed under an agreement with the Justice Department.

The release of Hamdi — a former Guantanamo Bay detainee who the Bush administration once contended was too dangerous to be allowed a lawyer — is the latest in a series of highly touted terrorism cases that have ended without convictions in recent months."

From the BORDC . . .

"House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member John Conyers has requested that the DOJ's Inspector General investigate the DOJ's expenditure of more than $200,000 in federal tax funds for Attorney General Ashcroft's much-maligned USA PATRIOT Act tour last year and the DOJ's public relations web site, lifeandliberty.gov."

Meanwhile, the much-feared sequel to the Patriot Act seems poised to be reborn. This statement was submitted to the Subcommittee on Technology, Terrorism and Homeland Security of the Senate Judiciary Committee by Timothy H. Edgar, ACLU Legislative Counsel:

"I am pleased to submit this statement for the record on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and its more than 400,000 members, dedicated to preserving the principles of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, at this hearing on **S. 2679**, which is named the **"Tools to Fight Terrorism Act of 2004."**

S. 2679 contains the largest expansion of federal powers since the USA PATRIOT Act, with the most serious consequences for civil liberties, that have been proposed since the demise of the much-maligned "Domestic Security Enhancement Act," also called "Patriot Act II." While the Domestic Security Enhancement Act provoked a firestorm of criticism and never proceeded beyond the drafting stage, a number of its contentious provisions have been given new life in S. 2679.

S. 2679 will remove critical checks and balances from the government's powers in a host of areas. If passed, the bill would:

In arguing for additional legal authorities to address terrorism, Administration officials almost never acknowledge the scope of their existing legal powers.

• expand secret eavesdropping and search powers not involving a "foreign power" in intelligence cases that are not subject to the stricter safeguards of eavesdropping and searches in criminal cases (sec. 102);

• allow the government to deny bail to anyone it charges with a terrorism crime, even if no other evidence is presented that the accused is a danger or risk of flight (sec. 103);

• weaken Americans' right to privacy in their library, medical and other personal records by eliminating the already inadequate safeguard in the USA PATRIOT Act of an order by a secret court (sec. 105);

• in criminal cases, compel federal judges to hear, in secret, government requests for permission to delete classified information from documents to be provided to the defense (sec. 108);

• allow for the secret use of secret evidence derived from intelligence intercepts and searches in immigration cases (sec. 109);

• make any crime that meets the USA PATRIOT Act's overbroad definition of terrorism a death-eligible offense, if death results (sec. 110);

• expand the crime of "material support of terrorism" so that association with an organization labeled a terrorist organization by the government is a criminal offense (secs. 114 and 115);

• provide an arsenal of new and unnecessary federal crimes relating to ports, railroads and other transportation systems instead of addressing real and substantial security problems identified by independent experts (titles II, III and IV); and

• expand money laundering law to make innocent users of traditional banking systems, such as hawala, more vulnerable to fines and imprisonment (section 505).

The approach of the legislation suffers from the same flaws as the USA PATRIOT Act, and for the same reason. According to the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States ("9/11 Commission"), the failures that contributed to the 9/11 attacks were not the result of a lack of legal authority to combat terrorism. Instead, the inability to prevent the attacks resulted from the government's failure to use existing legal authorities effectively.

Recommendation: The burden of proof for retaining a particular governmental power should be on the executive, to explain (a) that the power actually materially enhances security and (b) that there is adequate supervision of the executive's use of the powers to ensure protection of civil liberties. If the power is granted, there must be adequate guidelines and oversight to properly confine its use.

Congress should follow the 9/11 Commission's recommendation. Thorough hearings must explore the use of existing PATRIOT Act powers, and the government should be required to meet the standard of the 9/11 Commission to show powers are needed.

In arguing for additional legal authorities to address terrorism, Administration officials almost never acknowledge the scope of their existing legal powers. To rectify this gap, this statement explains what the PATRIOT Act and pre-9/11 legal authorities already permit federal agents to do. In fact, DOJ already has broad powers to obtain sensitive records like library and bookstore records, medical records, and other records, to detain terrorism suspects without bail, and to obtain death sentences in terrorism cases.

According to Attorney General Ashcroft, for almost two years, from October 2001 to September 2003, the Justice Department did not even use one PATRIOT Act power –the power to get an order from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court for library or other sensitive records without probable cause or individualized suspicion. The Justice Department has now released documents that suggest it requested authorization for such an order in October 2003.

The government has not explained why it did not use the PATRIOT Act records power for almost two years. The most logical explanation is that the power was not needed – that the government could and did obtain the information it sought in its wide-ranging post 9-11 terrorism investigations through its pre-existing intelligence and law enforcement powers. Despite this, the Administration argues that Congress should expand this and other PATRIOT Act powers even further.

The powers in S. 2679 would weaken basic checks and balances and should be rejected."

Free Radio Olympia To Change Frequency: 101.9 on 10/29!

by dj megawatti

On October 29, Free Radio Olympia will move our broadcast signal from 91.3 FM to 101.9 FM. We are calling on listeners to help spread the word, to make sure all our listeners know to retune their receivers to 101.9 on 10.29!

Free Radio Olympia is an unlicensed community radio station operating at 100 watts in Olympia. Our aim is to provide information and education to the community by offering diverse content including independent and local music, alternative commentary and news programs, and coverage of local events. In order for radio to be used effectively as a resource by the community, we encourage participation. Free radio offers the community a means for outreach to communicate, organize, and unify, in an unregulated atmosphere.

Free Radio Olympia has been broadcasting on 91.3 FM since we first went on the air in the spring of 2001. When the frequency was chosen, we ensured that our signal would not interfere with another radio station's signal within its protected contour, the range of its signal guaranteed by its license. However, it was not taken into account that KBCS on 91.3 in Bellevue had a listenable signal in Olympia, outside its protected contour, and that the Bellevue Community College station might have listeners here.

Recently it has come to our attention that FRO's use of 91.3 has in fact prevented some Olympia listeners of KBCS from tuning in their favorite radio station, thus limiting their freedom of choice. KBCS is not a commercial radio station or an NPR franchise, but a progressive community station that airs many of the same important public affairs programs FRO airs such as Democracy Now! and Free Speech Radio News. The KBCS studio is where Amy Goodman went to work on her program Democracy Now! when she was in the Puget Sound area for Evergreen's graduation in 2003, where she was the keynote speaker.

The members of Free Radio Olympia have reached consensus that the responsible course of action is to change our frequency to one not used by broadcasters near enough to have a listenership in Olympia. We have access to more comprehensive information about the landscape of Olympia's FM dial than we had in 2001. We have chosen 101.9 FM, where our nearest co-channel neighbors are in Victoria, B.C. and Portland, OR.

As an unlicensed, unregulated micro-power radio station, FRO has always held to the belief that no one owns the airwaves, and that no government or entity should have the authority to own, rent or sell access to the radio frequency spectrum as if it were real estate. In fact, some of us believe no one should have the authority to own, rent or sell real estate! Still, it is not the fault of the renter that the landlord exacts a toll. While KBCS as a licensed, and therefore regulated, station does not have freedom of mobility on the dial, FRO as an autonomous station has much more freedom. As good, community-oriented radio pirates we will hold ourselves accountable to our mission statement and relinquish our squat on 91.3 for the good of the people, letting the progressive voice of KBCS again have some room on Olympia's dial.

When we change frequency, KBCS will be heard on 91.3, listenable but not clear on most receivers. KBCS will be have recently completed their fall pledge drive. If you like their programming, and you want to let them know that they are appreciated in Olympia, you might consider giving them a donation.

Please don't forget to also donate to FRO! We never have pledge drives, but Free Radio Olympia is funded solely by listener donations, grassroots fundraising events, and t-shirt sales. We can receive donations at Last Word Books, 211 4th Ave. in downtown Olympia.

We hope our listeners will follow us across the dial to 101.9. But if we aren't playing anything good at 6 in the morning, you can listen to Democracy Now! live via satellite on KBCS 91.3, before it is aired by any local Olympia stations! Please know that our jog to the right on the dial does not reflect any change of content, except that which occurs normally as the result of new voices and ever-increasing community participation.

We will continue to broadcast in mono, to maximize the range we can cover with our signal. To tune us in, manually tune your receiver, or, if you must use scan or seek, disengage stereo (MPX) lock, on your receiver to enable it to stop on mono signals. If you have difficulty recieving our signal, try adding a wire antenna to your receiver. Even a piece of wire (bare, not insulated) wrapped tight around the telescoping antenna of a boombox, taped down, and the remainder tacked up on the wall will make a difference.

For more information about Free Radio Olympia or to get involved, visit us online at www.frolympia.org, email us at fro@riseup.net, or call our studio at (360)705-9780.

Remember to tell your friends, FRO moves from 91.3 to 101.9 on 10.29!!!

TCTV program throughout October:
Local Retreat Fri-Sat Nov 5-6:

Oil Supplies Dwindling: Wars & Chaos Coming Unless We Change Course Now

by Glen Anderson

Oil has been the cheapest and most convenient energy resource ever discovered by humans. For 200 years industrial nations became accustomed to a seemingly endless supply of fossil fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas). The US in particular designed our industry, transportation, and many other aspects of our society around the assumptions that oil would always be available and cheap – and that growth is necessary and can go on forever.

When the steep upward slope of oil demand crosses the downward slope of oil production – within just a few years – we will start to see global chaos on a scale never before experienced.

Oil took hundreds of millions of years to accumulate. In the past 150 years we have used half of the world's available oil. Oil production in the US peaked in 1971 and has been declining ever since. We're importing more and more of our oil from other countries – especially countries that are politically unstable. The biggest oilfields in the rest of the world have been peaking in recent years, and global oil production will start declining soon.

Meanwhile, oil consumption worldwide is increasing at an exponential rate, as Americans enjoy gas-guzzling vehicles and the rest of the world industrializes and builds more cars. When the steep upward slope of oil demand crosses the downward slope of oil production – within just a few years – we will start to see global chaos on a scale never before experienced.

Over the coming years, prices for gasoline and everything made from oil will spike. This will cause economies to crash.

Transportation of people and goods will become much more expensive. Large-scale agriculture (based on fertilizers and pesticides made with oil and natural gas) will stop being cost-effec tive, so global food production will decline. Experts predict that hunger will kill **billions** of people in a few decades. Wars for oil will ravage the globe. (Indeed, they've already started as the US tries to conquer Afghanistan to build a pipeline and tries to control the oil of Iraq, Colombia, and Venezuela.)

We'll be transplanted from a world of energy growth to one of energy decline. We'll enter uncharted territory. We'll need to adjust our mental frame of reference to this new reality. We'll need to rethink and redesign modern society. Government and the public have resisted the radical changes that are necessary. Frankly, the odds are against us, but some solutions are possible – but **only** if we can generate the political will – and **only** if we start immediately!

We have several opportunities to learn about this rapidly developing crisis:

TCTV program throughout October: The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) devotes its October TCTV program to "Oil, War, Chaos, and Alternatives." Cable TV subscribers in Thurston County can watch it on channel 22 or 29 (depending on your neighborhood) every Monday at 1:30 p.m. and every Thursday at 9:00 p.m. throughout October. Our guests are Bernie Meyer and Paul Horton. Bernie is a very active FOR member who recently studied oil and other environmental problems for the national FOR. Paul is co-Executive Director of Climate Solutions, an Olympia-based nonprofit organization working to reduce the use of fossil fuels and solve the problem of global climate disruption.

Study & Discussion Retreat Fri-Sat Nov 5-6: The Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation (WWFOR) is focusing its annual Fall Retreat on "Peak Oil, War, and Sustainability: Opportunities for the Peace & Justice Movement." This very low-cost event is held in a wooded retreat location near Lacey. It runs from Friday's potluck supper until 2:45 Saturday afternoon.

Reading materials will be posted on websites of the Olympia FOR, www.olyfor.org, and/or the Western Washington FOR, www.scn.org/wwfor

More information: Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 glen@olywa.net

Thurston County doesn't like Montana

by Drew Hendricks

More than two thousand Thurston County voters likely boycotted the first so-called 'Montana Primary' run in Washington State since the 1930's. The change in election law prompted many angry letters to the Olympian newspaper from people who said they would rather not be forced to choose one party or another, prior to casting their ballots. Figures released by the Thurston County Auditor show that many people actually did sit out the recent primary. Despite her prediction that 55% of the electorate would participate in the primary election, Thurston County Auditor Kim Wyman (Republican) reported on September 24th that just 45.49% of the electorate had actually voted in the 2004 primary.

The most recent primary that can be fairly compared to this one was held in September of 2000. That year also saw a close presidential race, and a primary turnout in Thurston County of 47.21% of the 123,725 people who were registered to vote. By 2004, the number of registered voters had grown by nearly 3.7%, to 128,438 people. A similar percentage of voter turnout in 2004 would need 60,500 voters to cast ballots in the election. Instead, only 58,427 people had cast ballots by the day the election was certified, September 24th. The difference, 2,209 voters, represented a rough approximation of voter dissent over the new primary system. Not all of that difference was known to come from dissatisfaction over the change, but the trend is clear: voters did not come out in greater numbers to cast their closed primary ballots. Some probably boycotted the election entirely.

Statewide, turnout as of Friday Sept 24th was 44.64 percent, much higher than the 36 percent turnout predicted by Secretary of State Sam Reed.

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Green and Growing:

Whither the Green Party in 2004?

by Chris Stegman

It has been a difficult and trying year for the Green Party in the U.S. This is a critical election and we want George Bush and his cabal out of power as badly as anybody. Many were calling on Nader not to run and for the Green Party to simply stay out of the presidential race altogether.

We faced a difficult choice when Nader decided to run as an independent late last year. But there were those who wanted us to endorse or nominate Nader so he could use our automatic ballot line in 22 states (plus Washington D.C.) and help get him on the ballot in others.

The decision came down to this: Do we nominate our own candidate—former GPUS general counsel David Cobb was the frontrunner in a field of seven candidates—or go with 'No Candidate' or endorse Nader's independent bid and seek to place him on the Green Party ballot lines as we had in 2000?

The party was fairly evenly divided in these three choices but the choice got tougher when Nader announced his vice-presidential running mate—Peter Camejo, Green Party candidate in California's gubernatorial and recall elections—just two weeks before our national convention.

The Green Party is backing Nader's right to run.

In June, 766 elected delegates at our national convention in Milwaukee resolved the conundrum in favor of nominating David Cobb as our Presidential candidate with Patricia LaMarche as his Vice-Presidential selection (see www.vote4cobb.org). The 2nd round delegate vote was 408 delegates for a Cobb nomination and 358 for all the other options.

I was one of 21 Washington delegates to the Milwaukee convention. A supermajority of our delegates ended up supporting a Cobb nomination.

Meanwhile, the Green Party is backing Nader's right to run. His issues are still solid, especially since Kerry's campaign is a mirror of Al Gore's in 2000 (on the issues).

In the meantime, there are 414 Green Party candidates on ballots in 40 states for 70 types of offices and we've had 28 local victories to date. Go to www.gp.org for more info.

In Washington State, we have 7 candidates, including Bern Haggerty for Lt. Governor and Mark Wilson for U.S. Senate, Robert Losey for Representative (9th CD), Chris LaRoche for state legislature, Ben White for San Juan Co. Commissioner and Howard Pellett for Skagit Co. Commissioner. For details go to www.wagreens.us.

Good News !

The best news of late is the September endorsement of the Green Party by Nativo Lopez, the influential president of Mexican-American Political Association, a nationwide group.

Another significant development has been the formation of the Black Caucus of the Green Party which has been conducting a nationwide speaking tour encouraging black people to join and participate in building the Green Party.

The Campus Greens are an affiliated organization that is active on over 200 college and high school campuses nationwide.

There are Green Parties in more than 100 countries on all continents: Africa, Asia, South America, Australia, etc. or-

(continued on page 15)

Meet the Green Candidates

The Green Party of South Puget Sound in conjunction with the Green Party of Washington State is co-sponsoring a "Meet the Green Candidates" social at the **Energy Outreach Center/Climate Solutions on Saturday, October 9th from 5-8pm.** Video Clips from the national convention and the recent appearance in Seattle of our presidential candidate, David Cobb will be shown. Candidates or representatives in attendance will include Bern Haggerty, Lt. Governor; Mark Wilson, U.S. Senate; Robert Losey, 9th Congressional District; Jody Haug, Cobb/LaMarche; There will also be presentations on I-318 (Instant Runoff Voting), No on I-872 (Louisiana primary), No on R-55 (Charter Schools), Yes on I-297 (Hanford Cleanup). Food and drinks will be provided by the local Green Party. Music by local musicians. Everyone Welcome !

Patriot Act Watch – October 2004

Patriot Act II Returns; Hamdi to be Released

Collated by Howard Rosenfeld

In a story widely reported (this from the Boston Globe) . . .

"Yaser Esam Hamdi, the US citizen and "enemy combatant" whose imprisonment without charges by the Bush administration for nearly three years led to a historic Supreme Court decision this summer, will be freed under an agreement with the Justice Department.

The release of Hamdi — a former Guantanamo Bay detainee who the Bush administration once contended was too dangerous to be allowed a lawyer — is the latest in a series of highly touted terrorism cases that have ended without convictions in recent months."

From the BORDC . . .

"House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member John Conyers has requested that the DOJ's Inspector General investigate the DOJ's expenditure of more than $200,000 in federal tax funds for Attorney General Ashcroft's much-maligned USA PATRIOT Act tour last year and the DOJ's public relations web site, lifeandliberty.gov."

Meanwhile, the much-feared sequel to the Patriot Act seems poised to be reborn. This statement was submitted to the Subcommittee on Technology, Terrorism and Homeland Security of the Senate Judiciary Committee by Timothy H. Edgar, ACLU Legislative Counsel:

"I am pleased to submit this statement for the record on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and its more than 400,000 members, dedicated to preserving the principles of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, at this hearing on **S. 2679**, which is named the **"Tools to Fight Terrorism Act of 2004."**

S. 2679 contains the largest expansion of federal powers since the USA PATRIOT Act, with the most serious consequences for civil liberties, that have been proposed since the demise of the much-maligned "Domestic Security Enhancement Act," also called "Patriot Act II." While the Domestic Security Enhancement Act provoked a firestorm of criticism and never proceeded beyond the drafting stage, a number of its contentious provisions have been given new life in S. 2679.

S. 2679 will remove critical checks and balances from the government's powers in a host of areas. If passed, the bill would:

In arguing for additional legal authorities to address terrorism, Administration officials almost never acknowledge the scope of their existing legal powers.

• expand secret eavesdropping and search powers not involving a "foreign power" in intelligence cases that are not subject to the stricter safeguards of eavesdropping and searches in criminal cases (sec. 102);

• allow the government to deny bail to anyone it charges with a terrorism crime, even if no other evidence is presented that the accused is a danger or risk of flight (sec. 103);

• weaken Americans' right to privacy in their library, medical and other personal records by eliminating the already inadequate safeguard in the USA PATRIOT Act of an order by a secret court (sec. 105);

• in criminal cases, compel federal judges to hear, in secret, government requests for permission to delete classified information from documents to be provided to the defense (sec. 108);

• allow for the secret use of secret evidence derived from intelligence intercepts and searches in immigration cases (sec. 109);

• make any crime that meets the USA PATRIOT Act's overbroad definition of terrorism a death-eligible offense, if death results (sec. 110);

• expand the crime of "material support of terrorism" so that association with an organization labeled a terrorist organization by the government is a criminal offense (secs. 114 and 115);

• provide an arsenal of new and unnecessary federal crimes relating to ports, railroads and other transportation systems instead of addressing real and substantial security problems identified by independent experts (titles II, III and IV); and

• expand money laundering law to make innocent users of traditional banking systems, such as hawala, more vulnerable to fines and imprisonment (section 505).

The approach of the legislation suffers from the same flaws as the USA PATRIOT Act, and for the same reason. According to the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States ("9/11 Commission"), the failures that contributed to the 9/11 attacks were not the result of a lack of legal authority to combat terrorism. Instead, the inability to prevent the attacks resulted from the government's failure to use existing legal authorities effectively.

Recommendation: The burden of proof for retaining a particular governmental power should be on the executive, to explain (a) that the power actually materially enhances security and (b) that there is adequate supervision of the executive's use of the powers to ensure protection of civil liberties. If the power is granted, there must be adequate guidelines and oversight to properly confine its use.

Congress should follow the 9/11 Commission's recommendation. Thorough hearings must explore the use of existing PATRIOT Act powers, and the government should be required to meet the standard of the 9/11 Commission to show powers are needed.

In arguing for additional legal authorities to address terrorism, Administration officials almost never acknowledge the scope of their existing legal powers. To rectify this gap, this statement explains what the PATRIOT Act and pre-9/11 legal authorities already permit federal agents to do. In fact, DOJ already has broad powers to obtain sensitive records like library and bookstore records, medical records, and other records, to detain terrorism suspects without bail, and to obtain death sentences in terrorism cases.

According to Attorney General Ashcroft, for almost two years, from October 2001 to September 2003, the Justice Department did not even use one PATRIOT Act power –the power to get an order from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court for library or other sensitive records without probable cause or individualized suspicion. The Justice Department has now released documents that suggest it requested authorization for such an order in October 2003.

The government has not explained why it did not use the PATRIOT Act records power for almost two years. The most logical explanation is that the power was not needed – that the government could and did obtain the information it sought in its wide-ranging post 9-11 terrorism investigations through its pre-existing intelligence and law enforcement powers. Despite this, the Administration argues that Congress should expand this and other PATRIOT Act powers even further.

The powers in S. 2679 would weaken basic checks and balances and should be rejected."

The Darfur Dilemma

OMJP sponsored article
by Jonathan Coleman

www.omjp.org

Recent violence in the west of Sudan has claimed tens of thousands of lives. Thousands of women have been raped, and more than a million people have fled from their homes. The United Nations has referred to the situation as one of the worst humanitarian disasters in the world today. The US has said it amounts to genocide.

If what's going on really is genocide, something must be done to stop it. But what should be done?

The following article is intended to help people better understand the situation, so they can help answer that question.

Sudan is a "presidential republic" currently ruled by Omar Hassan El-Bashir. The present regime came to power following a military coup in 1989. It is a mixture of a military elite and an Islamist party. Since independence from the UK in 1956, military regimes favoring Islamic-oriented governments have dominated national politics, and civil war has raged for all but ten years.

There are currently two major conflicts going on in Sudan: the first, a north-south civil war, has been raging for 21 years. Fighting in that war is predominately in the south. Since 1983, that war (and its famine-related effects) has claimed over 2 million lives and resulted in the displacement of over 4 million people. A few years ago northern opposition parties joined forces with the southern rebels, forming an anti-government alliance. Partly as a result of these developments, peace talks gained momentum in 2002. A cease-fire agreement has been in effect for some time, and final settlement talks are to resume this October in Kenya.

It is the other war that has placed Sudan in the international spotlight of late. That conflict is in the western part of the country, in the Darfur region. (Dar means home in Arabic, so Darfur means "home of the Fur people," although the region is also home to a couple other groups as well.) Encompassing an area around 125,000 square miles (slightly smaller than the island of Great Britain,) Darfur is home to around seven million people. Low level conflict has simmered there for years, characterized primarily by disputes between nomadic and sedentary groups, largely having to do with competition for resources (especially water) in this harsh desert.

For a variety of reasons, including population growth and expansion of the desert, conflict in Darfur had been steadily escalating in recent years. Traditional means of resolving inter-ethnic disputes began to break down, and rising ethnic tensions led to more and more clashes. Attacks by armed nomad groups on sedentary villages became more and more common. Socioeconomic problems and the proliferation of small arms in the region led to an increase in banditry throughout the province.

Things started falling apart in 2001 after the government declared a state of emergency in the region and started arbitrarily arresting leaders of both sedentary groups and nomads. Numerous convictions followed, but trials were ridiculously unfair. Many innocent people were convicted of crimes they likely did not commit, and many crimes continued to go unpunished. In early 2003 armed political groups emerged, complaining the government was failing to invest enough in the region and was not doing enough to protect sedentary groups from the raiding nomads. They claimed to attack the government rather than the nomad groups because Khartoum, they said, was to blame for their problems, not inter-ethnic tensions. The apparent success of the rebels in the south of the country at securing negotiations through violent means undoubtedly gave these new western rebels encouragement. There was certainly the fear of this in Khartoum, at any rate.

Khartoum responded by giving free reign – and support – to the nomad militias, who came to be known as *Janjawid* (a Sudanese word meaning "armed men on horses.") There was an immediate ratcheting up of violence in Darfur. Reports of *Janjawid* attacks against civilians became all too common. According to hundreds of victims interviewed by Amnesty International, most of the attacks carried out by *Janjawid* forces against civilians have been accompanied by the Sudanese army. The *Janjawid* wear military uniforms, have received pay from the government, and often operate out of former army camps. They also apparently have sometimes coordinated their attacks with the Sudanese airforce, which has directly or indiscriminately bombed villages, killing civilians before or after attacks. The *Janjawid* continue to roam the countryside, routinely attacking villages and individuals, and entering camps of internally displaced persons (refugees within their own country) where they kill and rape at will. The government of Sudan has thus far made little to no effort to stop them.

Now there is a humanitarian crisis. Over 50,000 people have been killed by the *Janjawid* since April of last year, and more than 1.2 million people have been forced from their homes. Hundreds of thousands of people are currently living in camps that have been difficult to impossible for humanitarian aid workers to reach – initially because aid groups were denied access by the Sudanese government; more recently because of the flooding brought by the (currently winding down) rainy season. In addition to those internally displaced in Darfur, approximately 200,000 refugees have fled to neighboring Chad. Due to lack of available clean drinking water, many refugees have taken to drinking straight from rivers. There are not enough latrines, and impending cholera outbreaks are feared. Virtually no crops were planted this rainy season, so millions of people will need food relief for many months to come. Presently there are scores of relief organizations active in the area, scrambling to meet these and other pressing needs, but it is still quite likely that many thousands of these displaced people will die in the coming months.

The lack of security remains a top concern. Refugees fear returning home or even venturing far from their camps, as thousands of women and girls from sedentary groups have been raped and then killed by the *Janjawid*. This has often been done systematically, to large numbers all at once, in public, with their fathers or husbands forced to watch. Others have been repeatedly raped, or gang-raped. Many women have been abducted and held in sexual slavery. Thousands of people will be dealing with the horrific trauma that accompanies such sexual violence for a long time.

This summer there was much talk in the world's media about what to do about the unfolding crisis, and especially about whether what was happening in Darfur amounted to "genocide" or "ethnic cleansing." While the term "ethnic cleansing" has no legal definition under international law, "genocide" does. If genocide is happening, the international community has a responsibly to do something to stop it. The debate over linguistics at times seemed to be more important than the actual story of what was (and still is) unfolding in Darfur, until Colin Powel finally uttered "the g-word" in July. The UN Security Council then got bogged down for a couples months, debating what to do. They finally produced a resolution in mid-September calling for the creation of an African Union (AU) force, mandated to investigate abuses and to prevent any more from happening. The Council also threatened Sudan with oil sanctions if Sudan fails to act to stop the atrocities, or if they fail to cooperate with the AU.

According to the most recent USAID figures, the United States has thus far contributed $218 million in humanitarian assistance to deal with this crisis. That's more than any other country in absolute terms, but when calculated as a percentage of total GDP, the aid the US has given is substantially less than what other countries have offered. At any rate, there is also the need, at least initially, for international peacekeepers. While the US did manage to help get the ball rolling at the UN, and has been quick to thank the AU for their willingness to send troops, we thus far have offered none.

But many progressives in the US are unsure as to whether the US sending troops to Darfur would be a good thing. In addition to the fact that Sudan is sitting on modest petroleum deposits, there are several other reasons to be wary of US intervention. It was our country, after all, that just a few years ago bombed an aspirin factory in Sudan. In the current crisis, the United States has shown itself to be willing to put pressure on the Sudanese government, but not the rebels. Our use of the word "genocide" may have been premature. Some say it may have worsened the situation by emboldening the rebels. A real solution to the conflict will have to come from the region itself: one imposed from the outside will almost certainly not work. And sanctions might only lead to the death of more people.

What should we do? One thing people in Olympia can do is to come to the Teach-In on the Sudanese conflict that OMJP is sponsoring, to learn more about the situation and to take part in a discussion about it. It will be held Wednesday, October 6th, at 7 p.m., at Traditions Café. We have invited two speakers: Babacar M'Baye, a professor of African Studies at The Evergreen State College; and Mark Toy, a former sanitation expert who has lived and worked in Sudanese refugee camps.

Folks should also check out the OMJP web site, where we have provided links to a few articles that can help people gain a greater understanding of the situation.

For those who would like to make a contribution to one of the humanitarian aid groups working in the Darfur region, OMJP recommends two groups that we feel are particularly deserving of support: *Doctors without Borders* and *Oxfam*. Both these organizations have excellent web sites detailing the work they are doing in this region.

Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace *is committed to building a society that meets the needs of all people, not one based on profit and economic values. We actively support movements that challenge corporate-sponsored globalization, and those that further racial, gender, and economic equality. Our efforts are focused on working in solidarity and in coalition with individuals and groups on a local, regional, and global level. Our meetings are held twice monthly, at the Olympia Community Center, located at 222 Columbia Way. We welcome new people to our meetings. Views expressed in these columns are those of the author and not necessarily those of the entire group. For more info, please visit our web site at www.omjp.org*

Real Politics in Mississippi:

A Reunion with History

by Paul Ortiz

The 2004 election is important because it signals whether George W. Bush gets a popular mandate to continue invading and bombing impoverished nations. This is the election that decides whether or not Dick Cheney, Wolfowitz, Rice, Rumsfeld, Ashcroft and the gang continue to run this nation.

This election gives us a clear opportunity to defend a woman's right to choose, Social Security, and the surviving remnants of our public sector from a thieving bunch of rich hoodlums who are using high-tech advertising strategies to undermine our faith in ourselves and our right to representative government. The major theme of the Republican Convention in New York was: corporations run schools, retirement systems, workplaces, and environmental policy better than we can.

Naomi Klein pointed out in an article in September's Harper's Magazine that the real reason Team Bush wanted to invade Iraq was to use the country as a laboratory for pure, free-market capitalism. Cheney never had an "exit strategy" in Iraq because the entire point of the exercise was to impose economic "shock therapy" on a society of bombed out, starving people who would be too weak to organize unions or to revive a public sector that Bremer and his Occupation Authority systematically dismantled. The privatization fire sale of Iraq's once-proud industrial system has been largely avoided in only because of the resistance against the occupation. (See "Pillaging Iraq in Pursuit of a Neocon Utopia" By Naomi Klein, Harper's Magazine, September 2004.)

I am urging all readers of this article to register and vote against George W. Bush. Do the political work necessary to ensure that the same old group of "likely voters" (read: wealthy, white, reactionary) do not continue to wreck our political system while inflicting damage on the rest of the world. Instead, help register and mobilize "unlikely voters" including first-generation immigrants, working people, students, young African Americans, Asians, Latinos, and white adults who have never before voted in their lives.

I spent an August weekend this summer in Indianola, Mississippi with some of the true heroes of the 1960s, oppressed people who found the wherewithal and courage to fight their immediate oppressors *and* to demand that the rest of the nation—for the first time in its history—embrace the principles of equality, economic justice, and dignity for all. The Mississippi Delta is the spiritual, cultural, and political heartland of America and it is the place where the modern Civil Rights Movement was born.

This summer marked the 40th anniversary of Freedom Summer, that extraordinary moment where several hundred college students cast down their buckets with African Americans who had been struggling to change the system for decades. Framed by outsiders as "the land that time forgot" Mississippi became the proving ground of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC—pronounced "SNICK") and it produced the most effective group of community organizers in American history including Fannie Lou Hamer, Bob Moses, Casey Hayden, Staughton Lynd, Lawrence Guyot, Charles McLaurin, Hollis Watkins, Liz Fuscoe, Elizabeth Martinez, and many, many others.

During the several years leading up to Freedom Summer, scores of black Mississippians who demanded their rights were murdered in quiet country roads. The media and the academic world completely ignored this remarkable struggle. The South of the 1950s was depicted by most northern left intellectuals—and southern white leaders—as timeless, permanently segregationist, and rigidly anti-democratic.

But this was merely the calm before the storm. The Civil Rights Movement in the Deep South birthed every major movement that came afterwards: the feminist movement, the student movement, the anti-war movement, the LGBT struggle, the Chicano movement, etc., etc. Unfortunately, people have tragically short memory spans. I frequently have to remind my colleagues in academia that the Civil Rights Movement did not start in Greenwich Village. It started in witheringly hot cotton fields that had witnessed generations of slavery, lynching, and apartheid.

I was invited by the organizers of the 40th Annual Civil Rights Reunion in Sunflower County to come to Indianola and neighboring Ruleville to record oral histories of the participants of Freedom Summer. The goal of this project is to develop educational curriculum on the movement for the public school system in Mississippi and to create a people's museum of the Civil Rights Movement in the Delta. The belief among veteran activists who are now parents and grandparents is that if young people are not taught how to organize for social justice they will live their lives as pawns. The Civil Rights Movement provides the best case study of how to become a community organizer.

At the reunion, Local activists who have lived in the Delta their entire lives joined former SNCC volunteers to talk about Freedom Summer 1964, the meaning of the Movement, and the current state of American politics. Activists who now live in New York, Washington and other states revisited friends and places they had not seen for forty years. There were many tears shed as reunion participants talked about police beatings, bombings, and the murder of friends by white supremacists. There was also a sense of accomplishment and wonderment that anyone managed to survive the era. We visited the tiny, squalid jails where movement activists were incarcerated and tortured.

Most chilling, at least for me, was the visit to the old grocery store where teenager Emmett Till's alleged whistle at a white women led to his grisly torture and death at the hands of white men in 1955. Till's mother decided to publicize her son's death in hopes of promoting not the idea of revenge, but social justice and dignity for all. In fact, the remarkable Mamie Till Mobley spent the next four decades lobbying for an end to the death penalty and helped spurred Republican Governor George Ryan to commute 156 death sentences and empty Illinois's Death Row.

This is essentially a test program for the rest of the country. If Gov. Barbour succeeds in Mississippi than the GOP will direct its state governors to implement this program across the country. Privatization run amok and even lower taxes for rich folks.

Most hopefully, the reunion was attended by scores of younger folks ranging from primary-school age youngsters to high school seniors. The youths had the opportunity to lead several discussions and to participate in dialogues on organizing and social issues with veteran activists. Anyone who thinks young folks are apathetic these days is missing the point. Young people only lack forums where they can talk seriously about politics without having the distraction of someone trying to sell them some jive product. The Indianola movement activists reminded me that it is the responsibility of elders to help create these spaces where history and the future meet.

There were so many other highlights of the Indianola/Ruleville civil rights reunion: Rep. Benny Thompson, the superlative Mississippi congressman featured in "Fahrenheit 911" gave a rousing keynote; Sidney Poitier sent his greetings, and a memorial in honor of Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer was held.

Lawrence Guyot, the founding chair of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in 1964 gave a tremendous talk on community organizing and politics. He proudly noted that a new coalition of whites, Native Americans, and African Americans came together in Philadelphia, Mississippi recently to demand a full investigation into the still-unsolved 1964 murders of civil rights activists Mickey Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman.

Guyot then turned his attention to the upcoming elections in November and this is where I return to the theme of Kerry and election 2004. The gathered activists were unanimous in their support for Kerry. There was no talk about "the lesser of two evils" because people in the Delta know what real political evil is: Governor Haley Barbour. Barbour, you may remember, was George W. Bush's right-hand man (literally) before becoming the top elected official in Mississippi.

Guyot reminded his audience that the Bush forces lavishly financed Barbour's rise to power in Mississippi in order to do one thing: dismantle Medicare, move elderly former recipients of that program to Medicaid and then simply abolish that system altogether. This is essentially a test program for the rest of the country. If Gov. Barbour succeeds in Mississippi than the GOP will direct its state governors to implement this program across the country. Privatization run amok and even lower taxes for rich folks.

What Barbour did not know was that the majority of people dependent on state medical assistance in one form or the other in Mississippi are white folks, the base of the Republican Party. Now, many older white people understand the GOP has been playing them for suckers and that even white privilege has its shortcomings. There is now a recall campaign brewing in the state led by numerous groups including the Mississippi AFL-CIO as well as even some nominally conservative organizations to oust Barbour.

In the grand organizing language of the movement's glory years, Lawrence Guyot urged Black Mississippians to form coalitions with white Mississippians to get rid of Bush's hatchet man. This is not simply a matter of replacing "tweedle-dee with tweedle dum" as Guyot reminded us, but a matter of saving the notion that all people—even the elderly and the poor—have the right to decent health care.

Lawrence Guyot then turned to the out-of-staters at the reunion and asked us to urge our friends and family members back home to support the Kerry presidential campaign in Mississippi because if Barbour cannot deliver the state for Bush in November he is finished. The GOP will likely dump him and rethink its "privatize Medicare" strategy.

So, I conclude by giving readers the address of the Kerry campaign in Mississippi. This is an opportunity to emulate what our ancestors in struggle did in 1964: make the impossible happen in the state of Mississippi. Finally, remember to vote, to register others to vote, and to keep the faith regardless of what happens in November.

MississippiForKerry.Com
rob@mississippiforkerry.com
MississippiForKerry
6111 Hwy. 49, #113
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Paul Ortiz is an assistant professor in Community Studies at UC-Santa Cruz. He has worked as a volunteer organizer with The United Farm Workers in Washington State and the Farm Labor Organizing Committee in North Carolina.

More letters from the Plowshares nuns

Submitted by Holly Gwinn Graham

Following are the latest letters from the Plowshares nuns, doing time in federal prisons for their symbolic disarmament of a nuclear missile silo in Greeley, Colorado in 2002. Their appeal is coming up in the beginning of October, and they are looking at possible 2005 release dates due to good behavior, with the prospect of "supervisio her knowledge of women's issues inside prisons, so she can go into the larger world after her 5 month term and make a difference. We all hope she will, anyway.

From Carol Gilbert

Dear friends,

The month of August has come and gone so quickly! The leaves are changing and I've been thinking about what's changed in me, Ardeth and Jackie since I last saw them or heard their voices over a year ago. While I'm trying to be present to this Eternal Now, you need to know that being present to it is not the same as accepting that this is how life should be.

The name I've given this prison is "Leisure World". Everyday I read, hear or see something of the horrors from around the world and here we sit, more than 1000 women strong. Food and medical may not be the greatest, but we have both. Work is a few hours a day if even that for most. Lots of time...the problem is there is so little *constructive activity* for most of the women here.

This month I've been pondering what Dan Berrigan calls "the wasting disease of normalcy." His prophetic words to us are difficult to absorb because we all long for normalcy in our lives.

Daniel Berrigan writes in The Price of Peacemaking, "We have assumed the name of peacemakers, but we have been, by and large, unwilling to pay any significant price. And because we want the peace with half a heart and half a life and will, the war, of course, continues. War, by its nature, is total – but the waging of peace, by our own cowardice, is partial. So a whole will and a whole heart and a whole national life bent toward war prevail over the verities of peace.

"In every national war since the founding of the republic we have taken for granted that it shall exact the most rigorous cost, and that the cost shall be paid with cheerful hearts. And we obey. And we bear with it – because bear we must – because war is war, and good war or bad, we are stuck with it and its cost.

"But what of the price of peace? I think of the good, decent, peace-loving people I have known by the thousands and I wonder. How many of them are so afflicted with the wasting disease of normalcy that, even as they declare for the peace, their hands reach out with an instinctive spasm in the direction of their loved ones, in the direction of their comforts, their homes, their security, their incomes, their futures, their plans – that five-year plan of studies, that ten-year plan of professional status, that twenty-year plan of family growth and unity, that fifty-year plan of decent life and honorable natural demise? 'Of course, let us have the peace,' we cry, 'but at the same time let us have our normalcy, let us lose nothing, let our lives stand intact, let us know neither prison nor ill repute nor disruption of lives.'

"And because we must encompass this and protect that, and because at all costs our hopes must march on schedule, and because it is unheard of that in the name of peace a sword should fall, disjoining that fine and cunning web that our lives have woven, because it is unheard of that good men and women should suffer injustice or families be sundered or good repute be lost – because of this we cry peace and cry peace, and there is no peace. There is no peace because the making of peace is at least as costly as the making of war – at least as exigent, at least as disruptive, at least as liable to bring disgrace and prison and death in its wake."

From Clarissa Pinkola-Estes, author of Women Who Run with the Wolves: "Do Not Lose Heart"

Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world, will help immensely. It is not given to us to know which acts or by whom, will cause the critical mass to tip toward an enduring good. What is needed for dramatic change is an accumulation of acts, adding, adding to, adding more and continuing. We know that it does not take "everyone on Earth" to bring justice and peace, but only a small, determined group who will not give up during the first, second, or hundredth gale.

"One of the most calming and powerful actions you can do to intervene in a stormy world is to stand up and show your soul. Soul on deck shines like gold in dark times...To display the lantern of soul in shadowy times like these – to be fierce and to show mercy toward others, both, are acts of immense bravery and greatest necessity. Struggling souls catch light from other souls who are fully lit and willing to show it. If you would help to calm the tumult, this is one of the strongest things you can do."

And so the question becomes "How will we show our souls and avoid the wasting disease of normalcy?"

My deepest gratitude for you and your faithful lives!

Blessings and love,
Carol Gilbert, OP
#10856-039
R1 Federal Prison Camp
P.O. Box A
Alderson, WV 24910

From Jackie

"...is it possible to befriend our dying and live into it, trusting that we have nothing to fear?"

Our Greatest Gift –Henri Nowen

I chose this quote to represent my dear friend Jackie Bennett as she prepared herself, her family and friends for her approaching death. She found it possible to befriend her dying and was gifted with a peaceful death surrounded by family, our sisters and friends. Thank you for your prayers and expressions of sympathy at the death of my friend of over 50 years.

It was so encouraging to receive the reports of August actions on land and sea around the globe. There is truly a widespread call for peaceful solutions to conflicts and an end to all war. Next up is the week of actions calling for a peaceful use of space. Check this web page for more information: www.space4peace.org. October 2nd is '*Adopt a Silo Day*'. For more information go to www.rmjc.org.

We have received the government attorney's response to our appeal. A three-judge panel will hear oral arguments on October 1st in Denver. A decision will come at a future date. Speaking of dates, my release date is listed as March 6, 2005. Three years of supervised release will follow a convenient way for the court to *attempt* to extend control beyond the guidelines for incarceration.

The present moment presents its own demands as I struggle to deal with my own inner violence. The opportunity to grow in nonviolence presents itself daily in the person of the most abusive guard I've ever encountered. Not physically: he wouldn't dare! His greeting when he was reassigned to the FPC was "Daddy's back!" I have many opportunities now to practice the gospel message of love and forgiveness.

But this is all so minor when we consider Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Haiti, and the overall effect of US Empire building and domination of land, air, sea and space. To what degree are we willing to place ourselves in harm's way to achieve peace? What next step are we willing to take as violence surrounds us on so many fronts? Violence presents itself right outside our fence. The former housing area and airstrip at Georges Air Force Base is being used for "urban environment" training: preparing the troops before sending them to Iraq.

KPFK, an independent Pacifica Radio station out of Los Angeles, is my main source of news. They recently ran an 8-week series on prisons. The seventh in the series debunked the myth surrounding the need for prisons. The prison system is beyond reforming. The soul of our nation demands the abolishment of this primitive enslavement of our citizens. Billions of dollars continue to pour into this evil system as homelessness and insufficient health care wreaks havoc on the multitudes. The website www.critcalwill.org will put you in touch with the National Organization of Critical Resistance, which has the goal of abolishing prisons.

Recent statistics:

Incarceration rates: 1950: Russia under Stalin 1,423 per 100,000 population.

2004: US under George Bush - 2,298 per 100,000 population.

Increase in US prison guards - 2000: 270,000 – 2004: 476,000.

Financial support continues so that Sue Ablao can care for my temporal needs as well as mailing these epistles. If you wish to receive these by e-mail contact Sue at sablao1@yahoo.com. For donations to the appeal fund contact Bill Sulzman at PO Box 915, Colorado Springs CO 80901.

There is so much to challenge our complacency these days. May we all use energies toward achieving a more loving world. I am always grateful, my prayers and good wishes to each of you. MAY THE NONVIOLENT REVOLUTION COME!

Love, **Jackie**
Jackie Hudson #08808-039
FPC Victorville
PO Box 5100
Adelanto, CA 92301

From Ardeth

September 2004

Dear Communities, Family and Friends,

Your loving support is sustenance in every season. Please accept my gratitude personally.

It is all blessing.

I celebrate the decades of lived experience in organizing and working through the Home for Peace and Justice/Advocacy for Justice in Saginaw, with Loaves and Fishes Catholic Worker and Pax Christi Community in Marquette, and our faith-filled intentional Jonah House community in Baltimore.

In these years of incarceration I'm becoming more aware of the global reality of these living communities. Yesterday the following message came from Carlos Acosta, Master of the Dominican Order and signed by friars on every continent and from many cities:

"We, your brothers and sisters in St. Dominic, meeting at the General Chapter of the Friars of the Order of Preachers at Krakow Poland, want to express our solidarity with you in this difficult moment. Your courage and determination are part of the Dominican message for truth and justice.

We join you in your protest against war and the indiscriminate loss of life and destruction to the environment which war causes. We sincerely pray to God with the intercession of St. Dominic to give you strength and hope, especially in times of solitude and discouragement. We will invite other brothers and sisters throughout the world to continue to pray for you."

Sisters Jackie, Carol and I humbly receive similar supportive letters from people of every walk of life. We praise the God of Life Who brings all of us together in these common causes.

It is in faith communities that we learn the disciplines for discipleship. In and from community we learn to be inviters, healers, welcomers, preachers, teachers, nourishers, truth-tellers, resisters...It is in communities that we learn forgiveness, communication, discernment and new beginnings. We are challenged to live more simply, share more generously, pour out life more totally, risk without unfounded fear consistently with communities. We have common prayer, common study, common work or ministry. We carry the cross with the oppressed: with people under bombs in war zones, with refugees, the disenfranchised and marginalized.

My celebration of jubilee will be with my classmates spiritually and with all companions on the path. You'll hear the songs burst through the prison walls all year long. All blessings!

APPEAL UPDATE

Anabel Dwyer, one of our lawyers, received the 10thCircuit Court prosecutor's response to our Brief on August 6th. She wrote to me saying: "On this 59th anniversary of Hiroshima, it is fitting testimony about why we all do this work. Clearly we come from different planets from the prosecutors in whose world U.S. high-alert nuclear weapons are presumed innocent and nonviolent resisters to war crimes and genocide are presumed guilty."

Our clarification reiterated in response to the prosecutor is due September 17th. Oral arguments are scheduled for Oct. 1st. Some months after, the 3 judges will make their decision.

My LOVE and Gratitude Always,
Ardeth Platte 10857-039
Federal Correctional Institution
33 ½ Pembroke Station
Danbury, CT 06811

(Zionism - Continued from page 4)
that there is not a real problem in the Progressive Left to be scrutinized, rather we Jews who would like to join in progressive action must do something to correct our own mis-perceptions. It also tells me that Mr. Nguyen is not interested in listening to the content of the objections of the Jewish Zionist moderate but rather interprets them as evidence of our own "Jewish insecurities". As an interpretative framework, this can be used to discount any number of critiques. What can this be other than a justification for disenfranchising the Jewish voice?

I can't help but think that in some sense Mr. Nguyen (and others of the same mind) would like to purify the Palestinian solidarity movement. They would like it to be composed only of those who agree with their definition of moral right and progressive action. Well, the movement itself is pretty broad. A movement is comprised of more than just individual 'clubs'. To my knowledge, they accept no federal money so they may include who they like. But by denying the right of full membership to individuals who do not share his beliefs, it is Mr. Nguyen who is insecure rather than the Jews. And it is not my role to serve the insecure or elitist members of any progressive group.

I am not writing to gratuitously attack Mr. Nguyen's beliefs. To be silent in the face of an article such as he wrote is to tacitly allow those beliefs to define what it means to be a true 'progressive'. None of us should promote the kind of moral superiority that his article articulated. Moreover, the kind of innuendo that he uses, implying that certain kinds of criticism made by Jewish Zionist moderates is due to Jewish insecurity, is hard to combat. What is an adequate response? It subverts any true dialog and makes it impossible for us to come together in any kind of meaningful way, because first I must prove that my beliefs and thoughts are not due to 'Jewish insecurity'! What would constitute such a proof?

My main purpose in writing is to suggest that the Palestinian solidarity movement is not harmed by the presence of Jewish Zionist moderates. While it is true that Jewish Zionist voices should not be the only voices to to speak about Israel, how could one deny that they are an important voice in the discussion? What useful purpose is served by excluding Jewish Zionist moderates? Because the character of a movement is defined by its members, Jewish Zionist moderates in the movement help bring the sides together rather than pushing us apart. If the intent of Mr. Nguyen's article is to push out such Jewish voices ... well I hope he will not succeed.

Sherri Shulman is a faculty member at The Evergreen State College teaching Computer Science.

(Solidarity - Continued from page 5)
arguments "are not due to 'Jewish insecurity.'" No one is saying that. Elementary logic requires her to simply base her arguments on some sort of evidence.

Instead, Shulman astoundingly resorts to a tacky "I'm not, you are!" rebuttal: "...it is Mr. Nguyen who is insecure rather than the Jews." If Jews are not feeling insecure, then why discuss antisemitism? Why have a Jewish state to escape to? Why worry about criticisms of Israel?

According to Shulman, I cannot accept that anyone can be "both pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian." That is neither true nor false, because without context both terms are meaningless. For example, if Shulman is pro-Palestinian, does that mean she supports the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland in what is now Israel? No, because she wants Israel to stay Jewish. So by one measure she is more pro-Israel than pro-Palestine.

Alan Dershowitz has proposed that Israel raze Palestinian villages in retaliation for suicide attacks and has claimed that the execution of relatives of suicide bombers would be "legitimate". He also considers himself pro-Palestinian and encourages his supporters to "assert the label of pro-Palestinian." Would Palestinians agree?

As I mentioned in my February *Works in Progress* article, which I know Shulman has seen, I reject the term pro-Palestinian even for activists opposing the Israeli occupation. It has an implication of favoritism in some tribal conflict. But this is not a tribal conflict, and we support the Palestinian struggle not because we favor Palestinians over Jews, but because we favor human rights, equality, and justice. Likewise activists fighting against South African Apartheid were neither pro-Black nor anti-White.

I like B'Tselem, Rabbis for Human Rights, Black Laundry (Israeli queer anti-occupation group), Israeli anarchists, and the refuseniks. But I hate Labor, Likud, checkpoints, and Israeli tanks. Does that make me pro-Israel or anti-Israel or what?

I sometimes use the term pro-Israel to signify support for the current policies of Israel, but only when the context is clear. In Shulman's usage, the terms are misleading or at least deliberately vague, similar to the way politicians portray themselves as "pro-good and anti-bad."

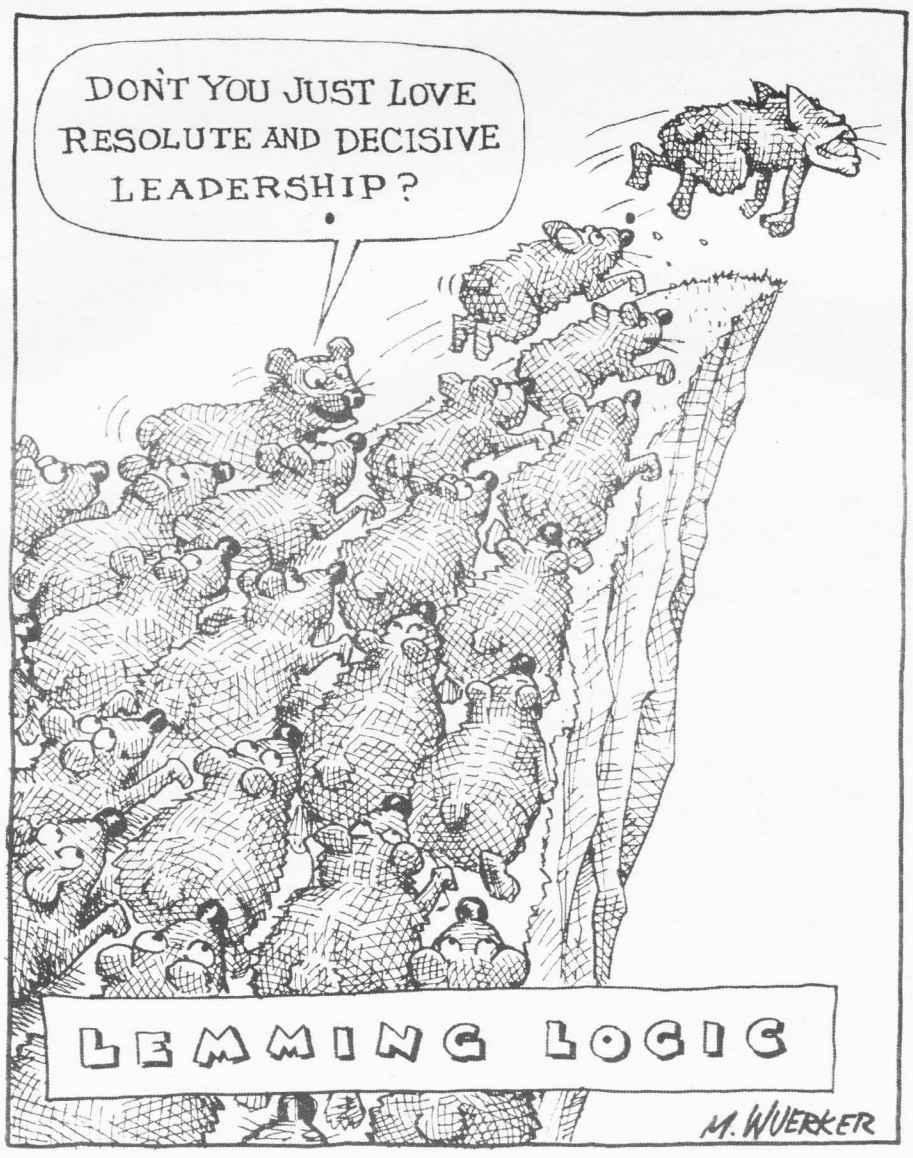
Shulman claims that I would like to "purify" (at least she didn't say *Judenrein*) the Palestine solidarity movement, that I am "denying the right of full membership" to those who don't share my beliefs. Fortunately for all the moderates who are clamoring to join the Divest From Israel campaign, I am not the Leftist doorkeeper. I cannot deny admission to anyone who chooses to attend the meeting of any of the Olympia progressive groups, nor would I want to. All the meetings are open to the public, and the groups have always welcomed people with divergent views and have treated them with respect, even when these people have been disruptive.

But what does Shulman mean by "the right of full membership"? The Palestine solidarity movement is not like the Shriners; there are no oaths to take and no initiation rites to follow. You don't even get a membership card like you would at Costco. The extent of one's involvement in the movement is based on how much one commits to it, not whether one has Mr. Nguyen's approval.

So I am puzzled why Shulman insists that people like her should get full membership benefits when she has never even attempted to join any of these elitist Palestine solidarity groups. She accuses me of elitism and exclusion now, but months ago when I attempted to reach out to her, she rebuffed me. What is Shulman's point? It seems that she wants to be heard, but she doesn't care to listen.

**Shulman submitted her letter for last month's issue, but because I was in Palestine at the time and unable to reply, Works in Progress held it.*

[Phan's original article will be posted on our website sometme soon at www.wip@olywa.net.]



(Green Party - continued from page 11)
ganizing around related issues. Greens share power in a coalition government with the Social Democrats in Germany and have helped pass some of the most progressive ecological legislation on the planet. Greens are represented in numerous parliaments in Europe as well as the EU governing body and in Australia and Canada.

In 2004, the overriding goals of the Green Party in the U.S.—locals, state parties, candidates and national ticket—is to hold our party together through this difficult period; to continue to build the party at the grassroots level; and to be prepared to forge ahead with party building after the elections no matter which way the election goes.

The Green Party must continue to be THE OPPOSITION PARTY to the imperial and non-ecological policies of the U.S. government no matter which of the two major parties rule. We are well positioned in the U.S. as the electoral arm of the growing movement for PEACE, SOCIAL JUSTICE, ECOLOGY and REAL DEMOCRACY.

In 2004, vote your conscience but also join and help build your local, state and national Green Party ! It's our best hope for a Greener future—for the country and the planet as a whole.

Chris Stegman is co-chair, Green Party of Washington State Coordinating Council

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"...between them, Europe and the United States account for by far the largest number of violent deaths during the twentieth century, the Islamic world hardly a fraction of it."

—Edward W. Said

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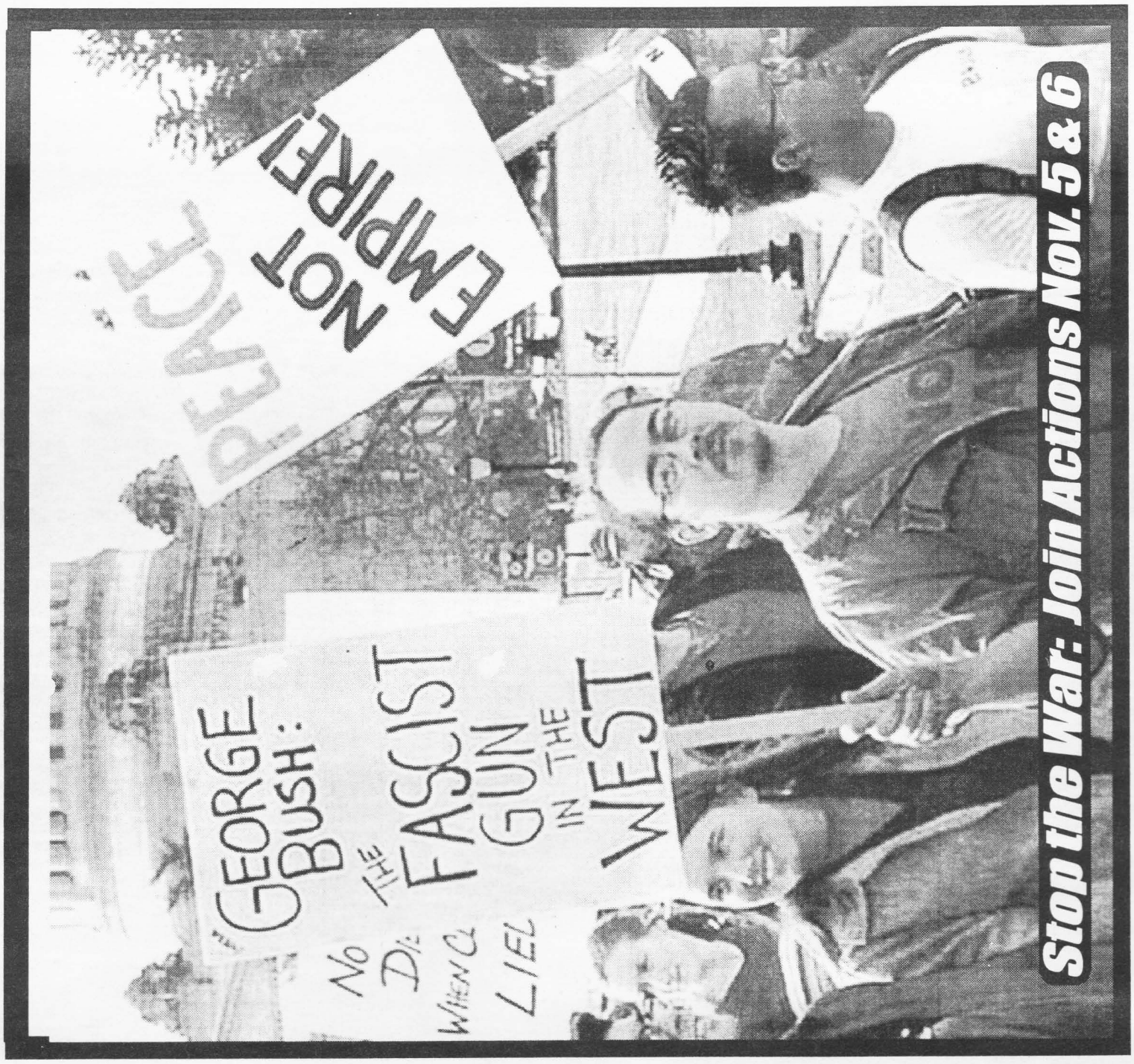
WORKS IN PROGRESS

TRUTH ABOUT POWER IS SPOKEN HERE W.I.P.



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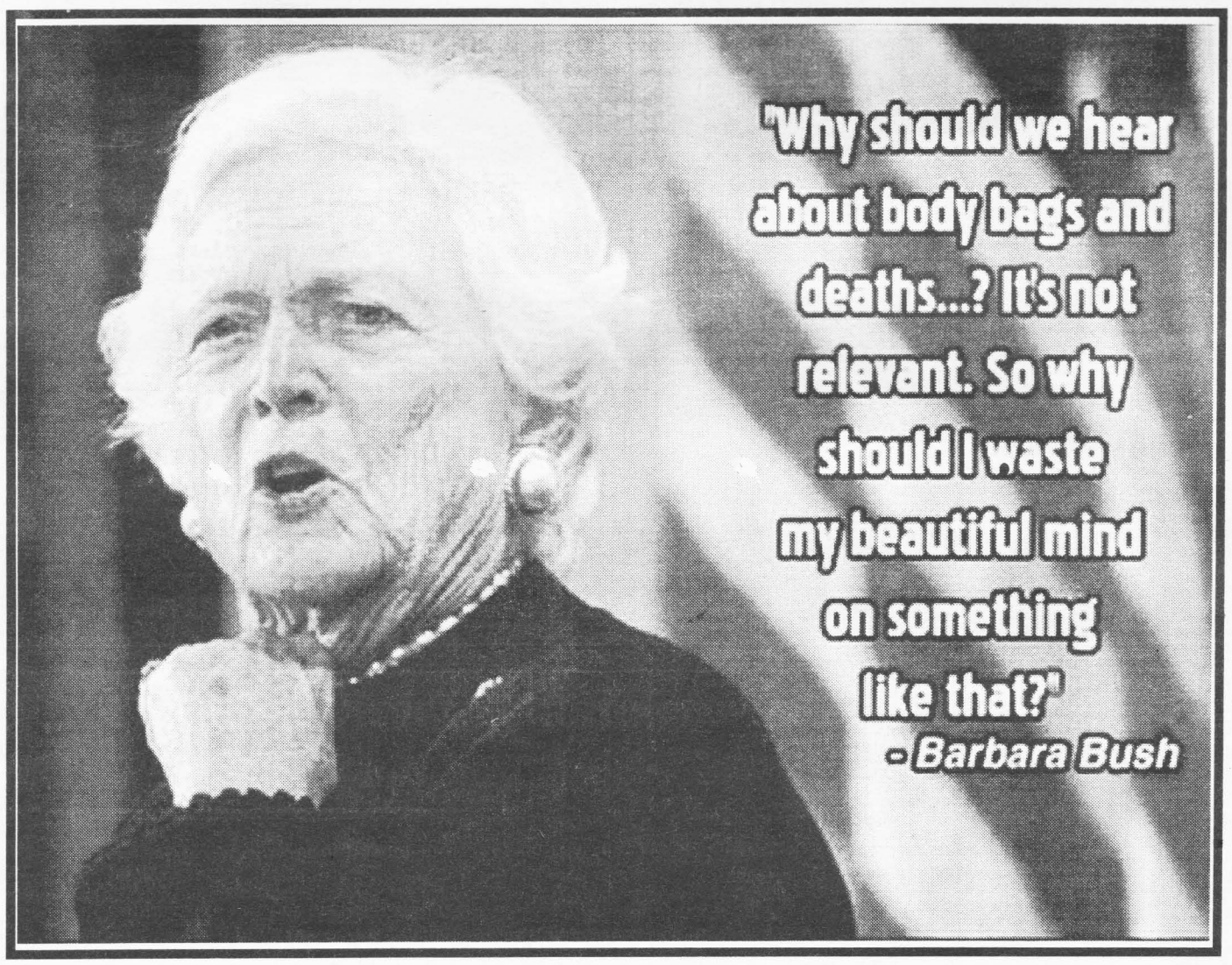
"Why should we hear about body bags and deaths...? It's not relevant. So why should I waste my beautiful mind on something like that?"
- Barbara Bush

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507